

"GREAT MIGRATIONS" PREMIERES SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 8 P.M. ON NAT GEO CHANNEL

NGM.COM NOVEMBER 2010

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

MYSTERIES OF

# Great Migrations

What Guides Them  
Into the Unknown?



*Supplement Map: World's Amazing Migrations*

**LITTLE IDEAS THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD** 24

**Lost Herds Are Found** 52

**Southern Sudan: Dreams of Nationhood** 62

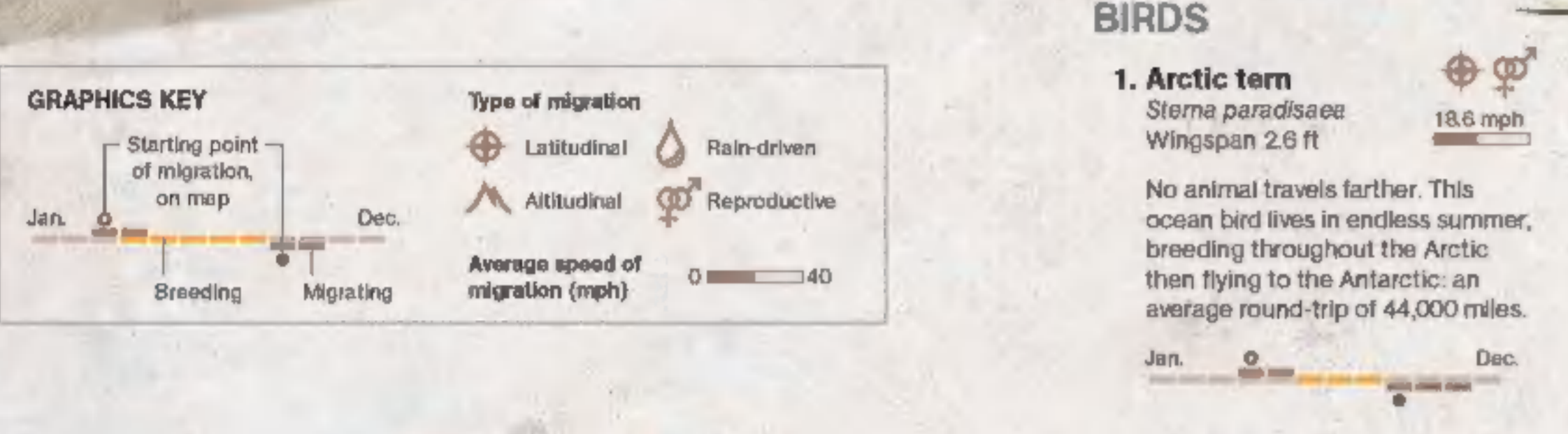
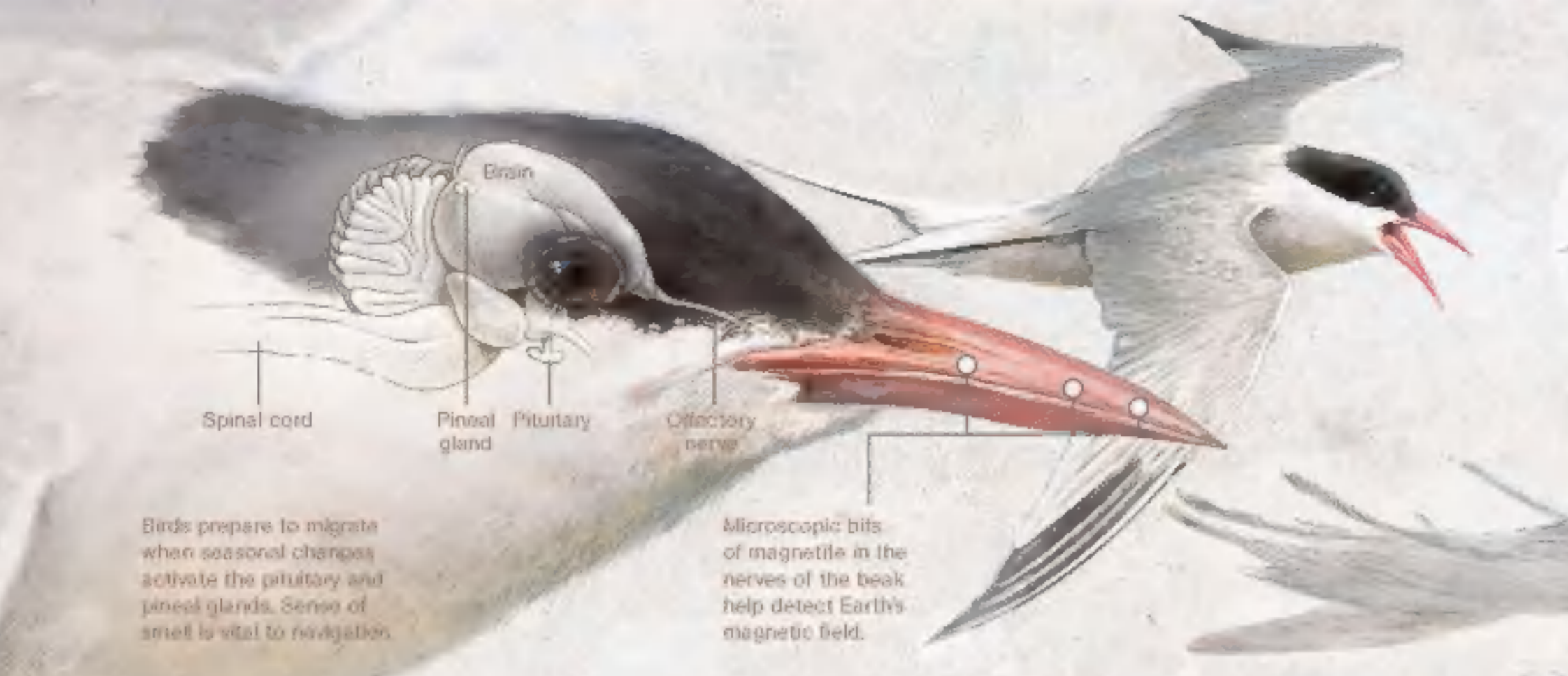
**A Rainbow of Fish in Japan's Seas** 90

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**1. Arctic tern**  
*Sterna parasitica*  
Wingspan 2.6 ft  
18.6 mph

No animal travels farther. This ocean bird flies in endless summer, breeding throughout the Arctic then flying to the Antarctic: an average round-trip of 44,000 miles.



**2. Barn swallow**  
*Hirundo rustica*  
Wingspan 13 in  
31.1 mph

Every continent but Antarctica hosts a seasonal population of barn swallows. Aristotle attributed their winter absence to hibernation, a belief held for centuries.

**3. Swainson's hawk**  
*Buteo swainsoni*  
Wingspan 3.9 ft  
24.2 mph

Finding thermals, great flocks of the raptors cruise as far as 8,200 miles between North America and Argentina's Pampas, with occasional, brief stopovers.



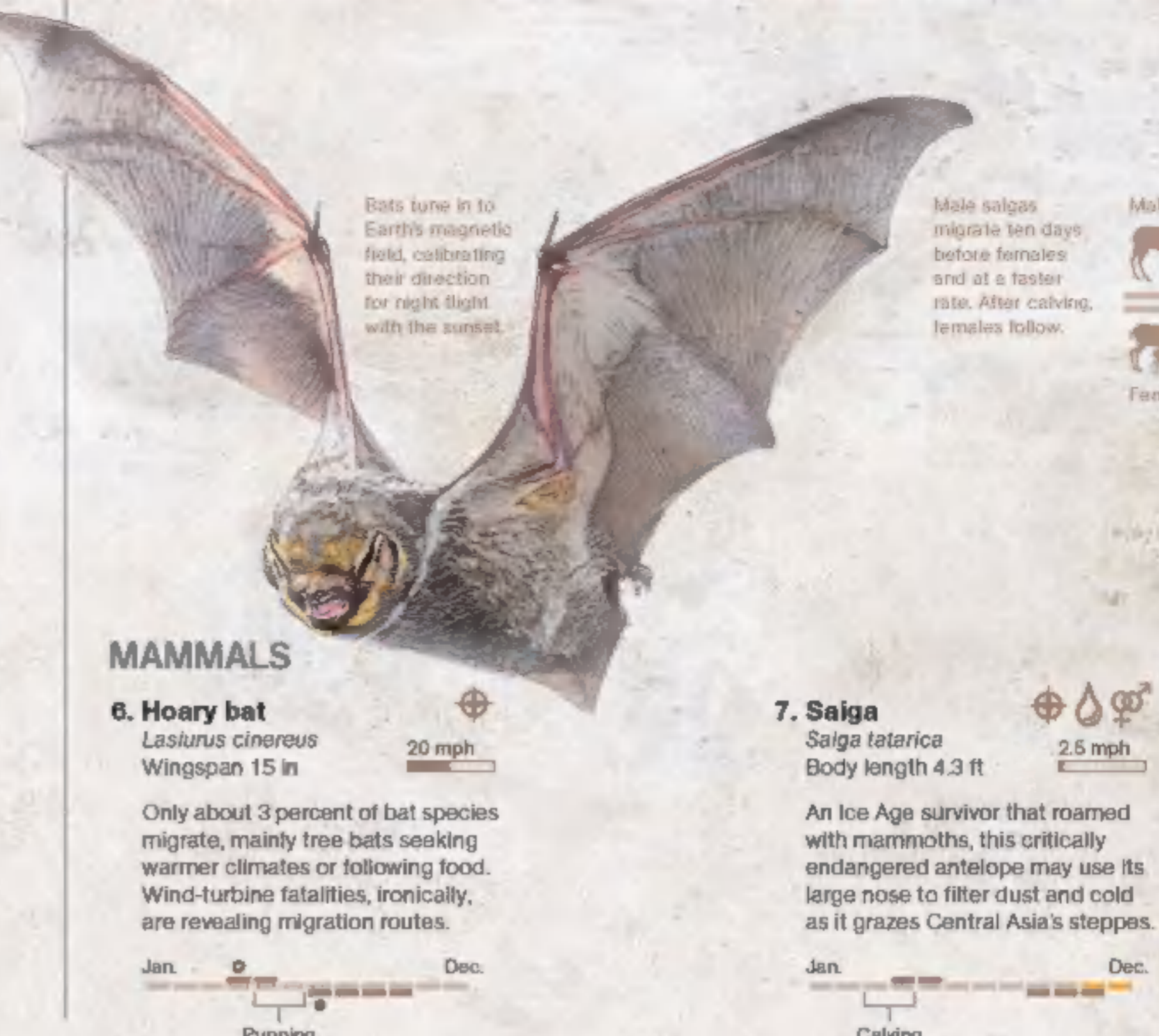
**4. Siberian crane**  
*Grus leucogeranus*  
Wingspan 6.9 ft  
34.2 mph

More dependent on wetlands than other cranes, this species has lost most of its winter habitat in China and western Asia. Perhaps 3,500 of the birds remain.



**5. Bar-headed goose**  
*Anser indicus*  
Wingspan 5 ft  
40 mph

Specialized lungs and muscles give this goose the aerobic stamina for flapping flight over the Himalayas at the low-oxygen altitude of nearly 30,000 feet.



**6. Hoary bat**  
*Lasiurus cinereus*  
Wingspan 15 in  
20 mph

Only about 3 percent of bat species migrate, mainly true bats seeking warmer climates or following food. Wind-turbine fatalities, ironically, are revealing migration routes.



**7. Saiga**  
*Saiga tatarica*  
Body length 4.3 ft  
2.6 mph

An Ice Age survivor that roamed with mammoths, this critically endangered antelope may use its large nose to filter dust and cold as it grazes Central Asia's steppes.



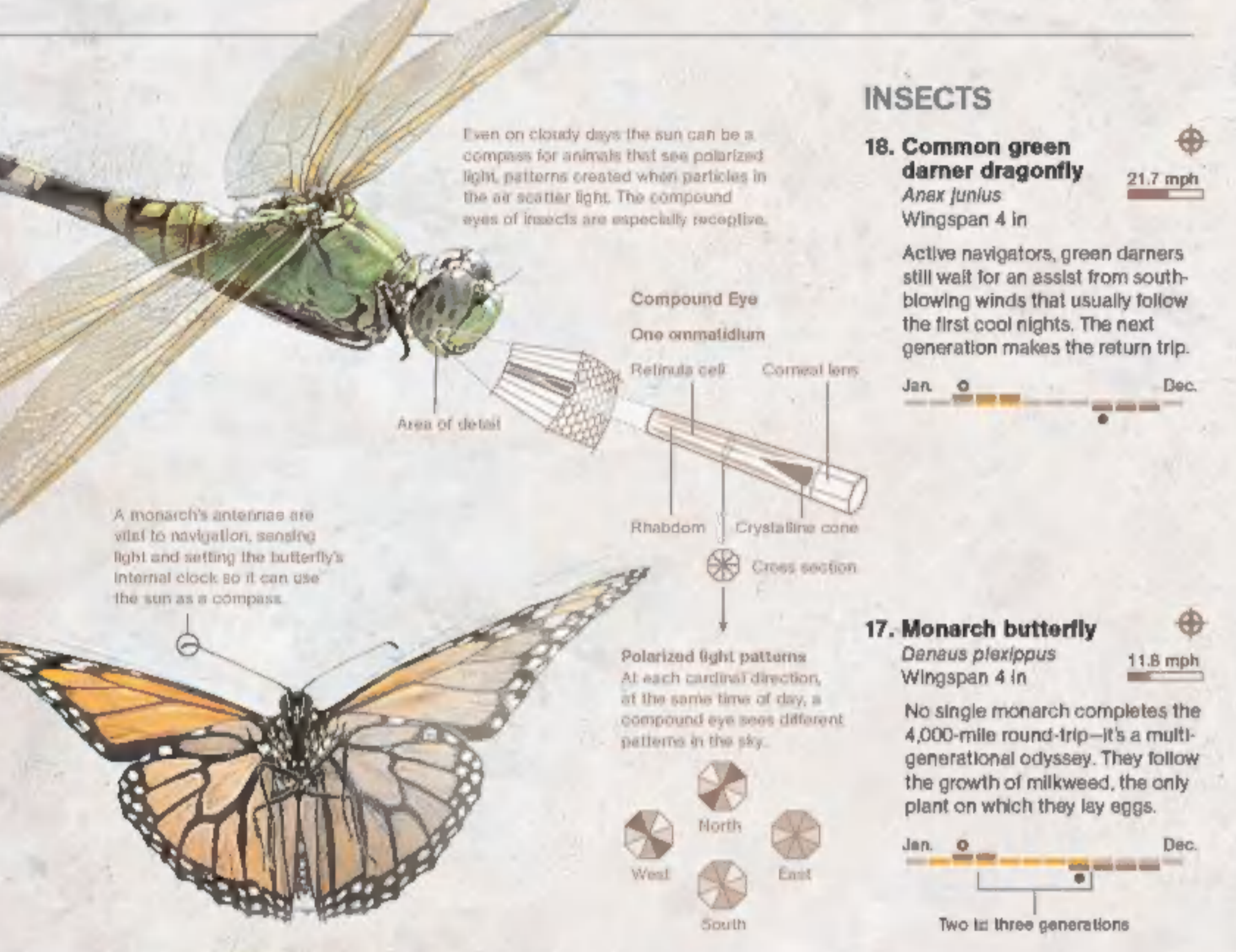
**8. Wildebeest**  
*Connochaetes taurinus*  
Body length 6.6 ft  
0.6 mph

Earth's last great land migration takes wildebeests on a circuit from Tanzania's Serengeti into Kenya across the Mara River, following the rains and new grasses.



**9. Gray whale**  
*Eschrichtius robustus*  
Body length 45.9 ft  
2.5 mph

Leaving summer feeding grounds in the Arctic, gray whales hug the North American coastline for some 5,000 miles to Mexico, bearing young in Baja's sheltered waters.

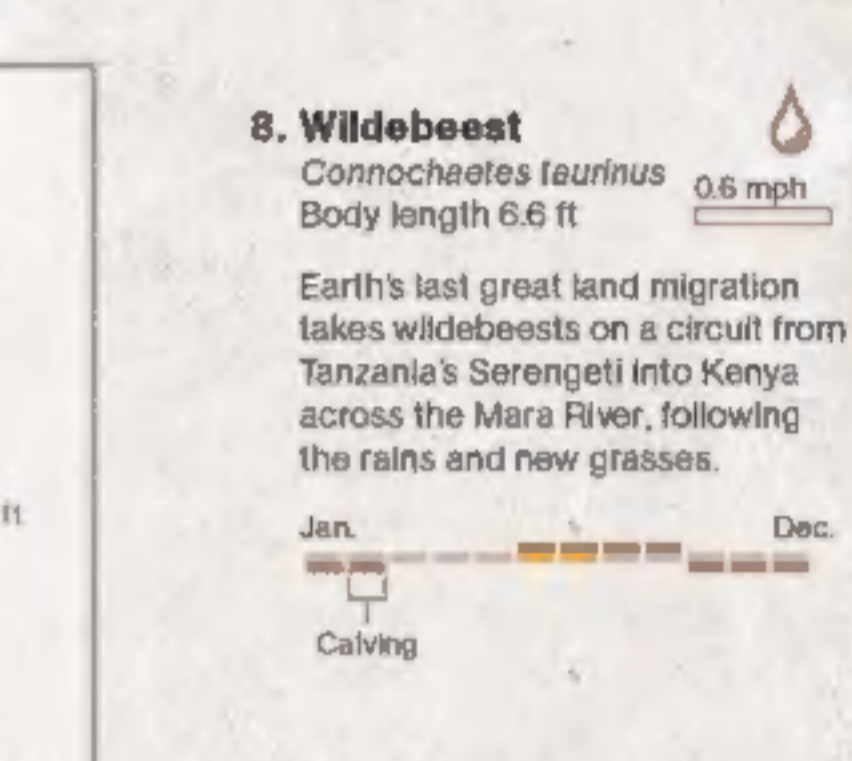
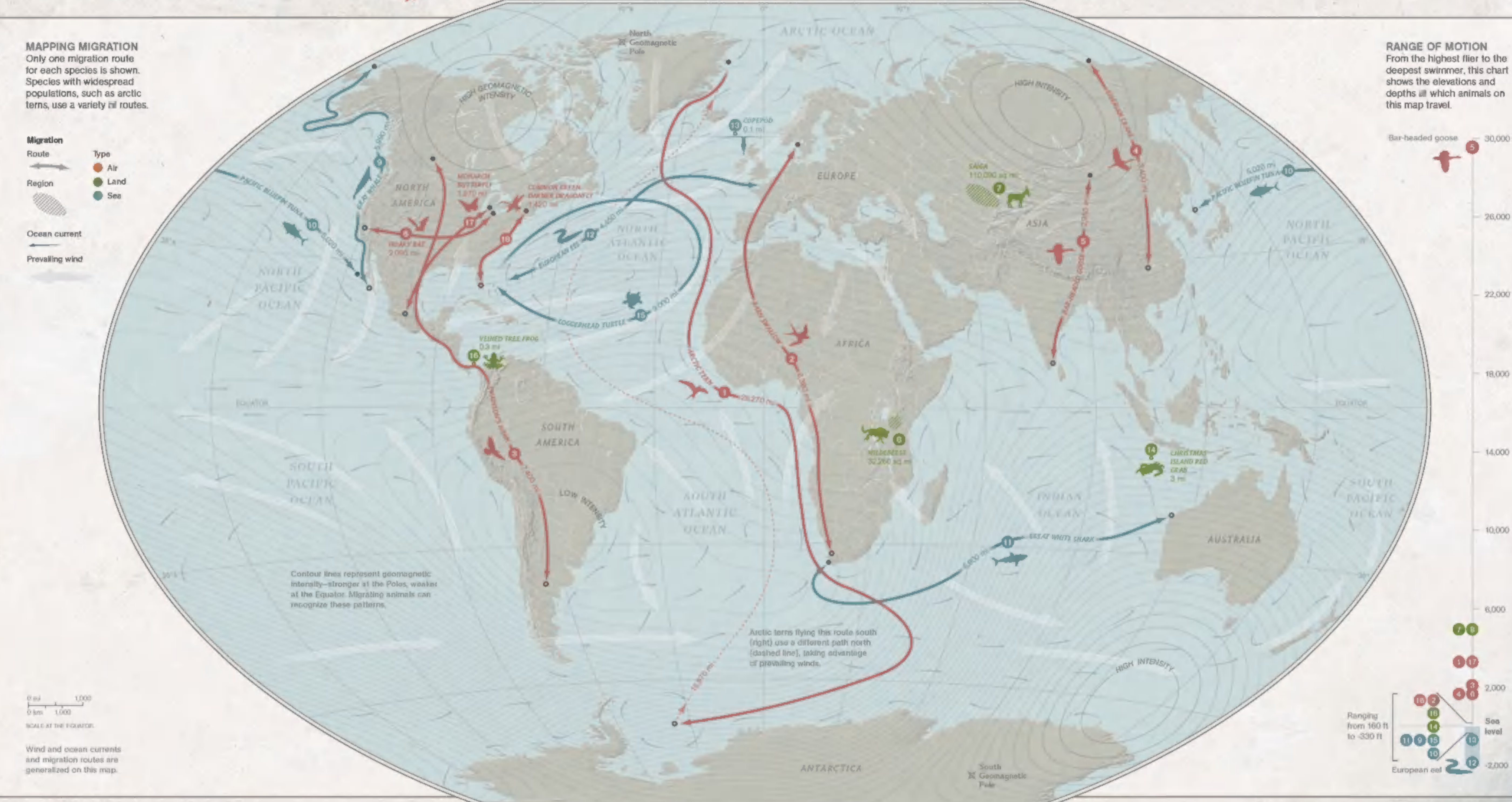


**16. Common green damselfly**  
*Anax junius*  
Wingspan 4 in  
21.7 mph

Active navigators, green damselflies still wait for an assist from south-blowing winds that usually follow the first cool nights. The next generation makes the return trip.

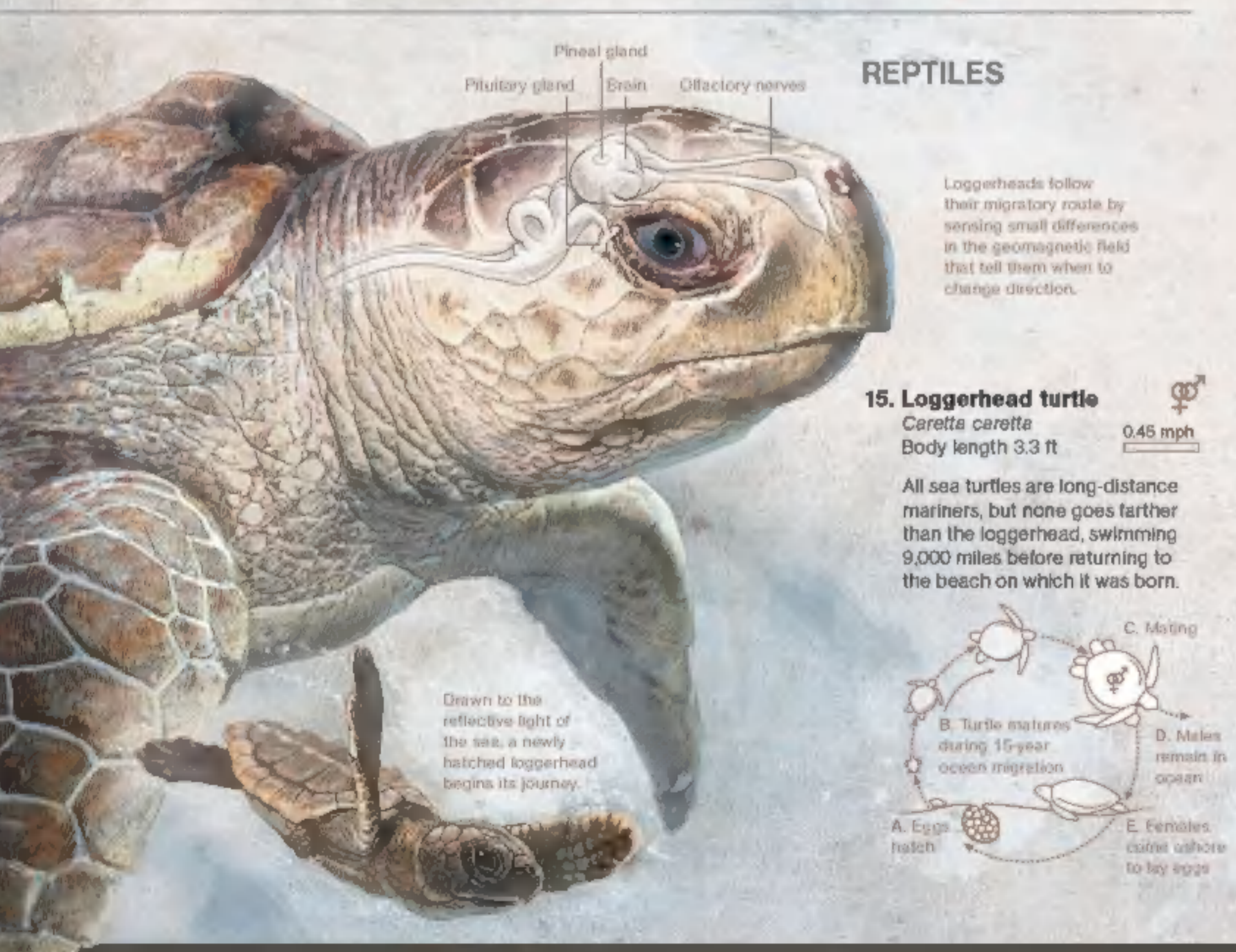
**17. Monarch butterfly**  
*Danaus plexippus*  
Wingspan 4 in  
11.5 mph

No single monarch completes the 4,000-mile round-trip—it's a multi-generational odyssey. They follow the growth of milkweed, the only plant on which they lay eggs.



**16. Veined tree frog**  
*Phrynobates venulosus*  
Body length 1.1 in  
0.001 mph

With the first summer downpour, this rain forest frog climbs down 100 or so feet to breed and lay eggs in temporary ponds. Within a few days, it returns to the trees.



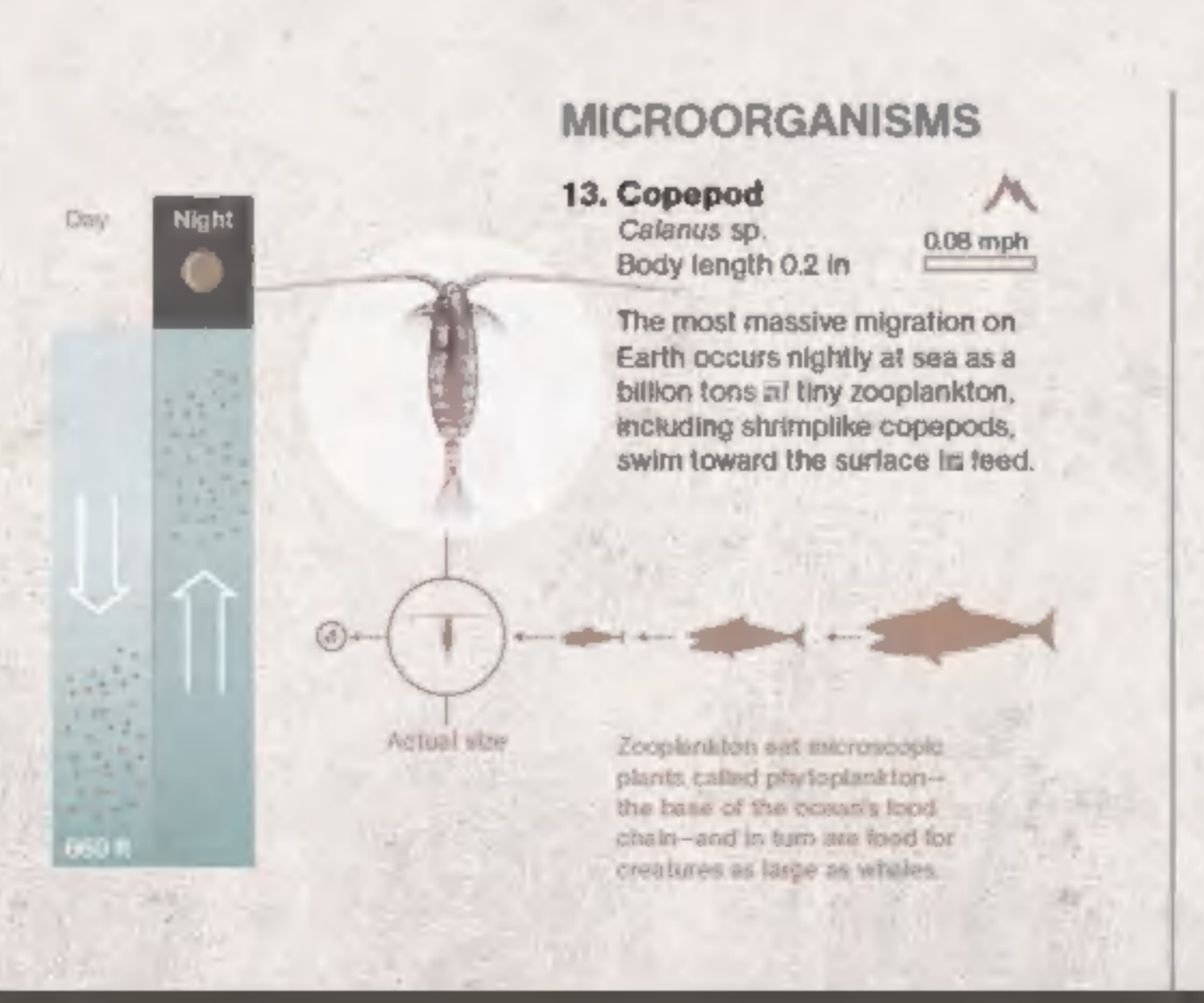
**15. Loggerhead turtle**  
*Caretta caretta*  
Body length 3.3 ft  
0.45 mph

All sea turtles are long-distance mariners, but none goes farther than the loggerhead, swimming 9,000 miles before returning to the beach on which it was born.



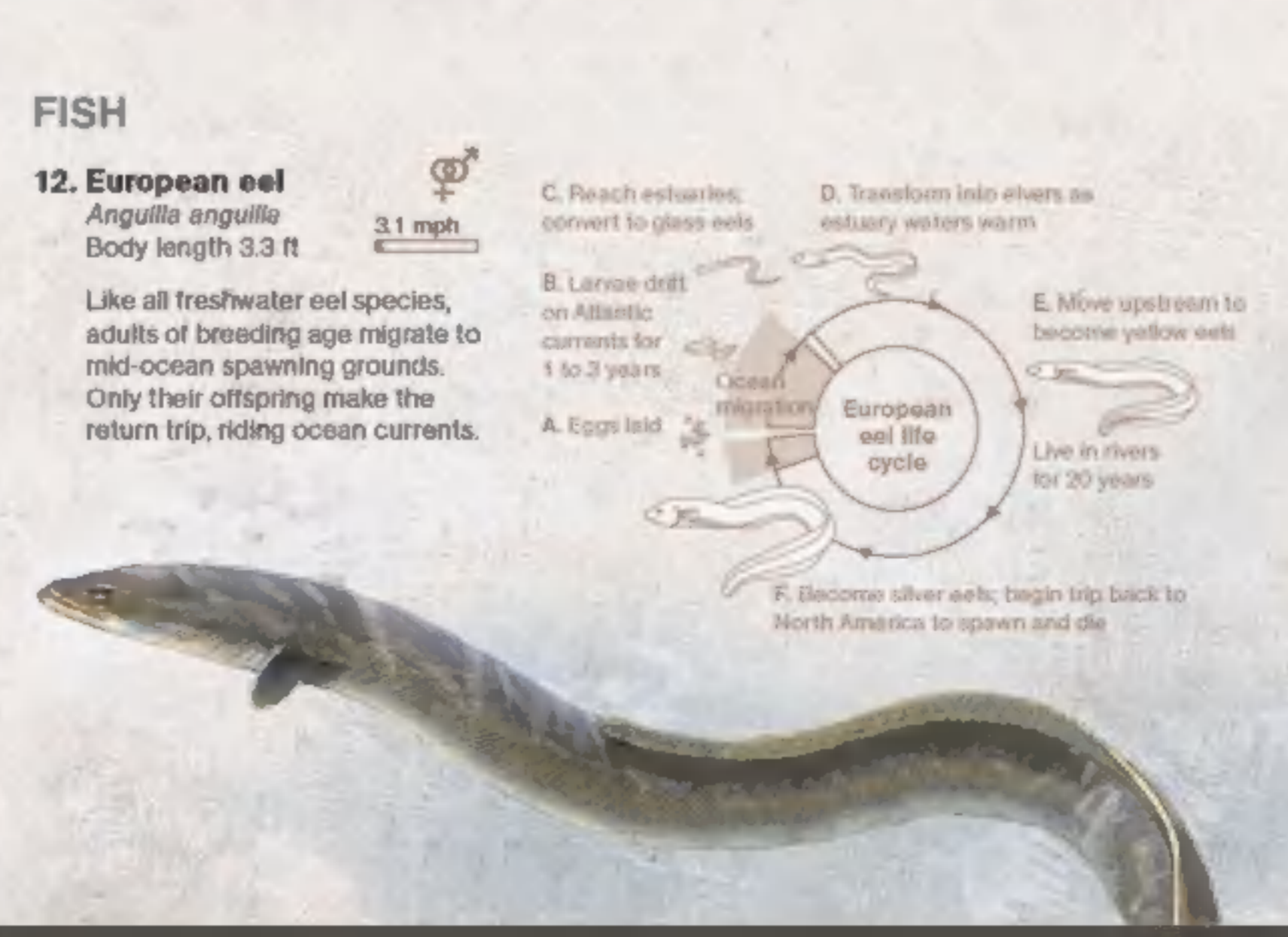
**14. Christmas Island red crab**  
*Gecarcinus lateralis*  
Body length 0.2 in  
0.05 mph

Cued by monsoon rains, 65 million land crabs march from forest to beach to mate, laying eggs in the sea. Weeks after they return, their offspring walk from shore to forest.



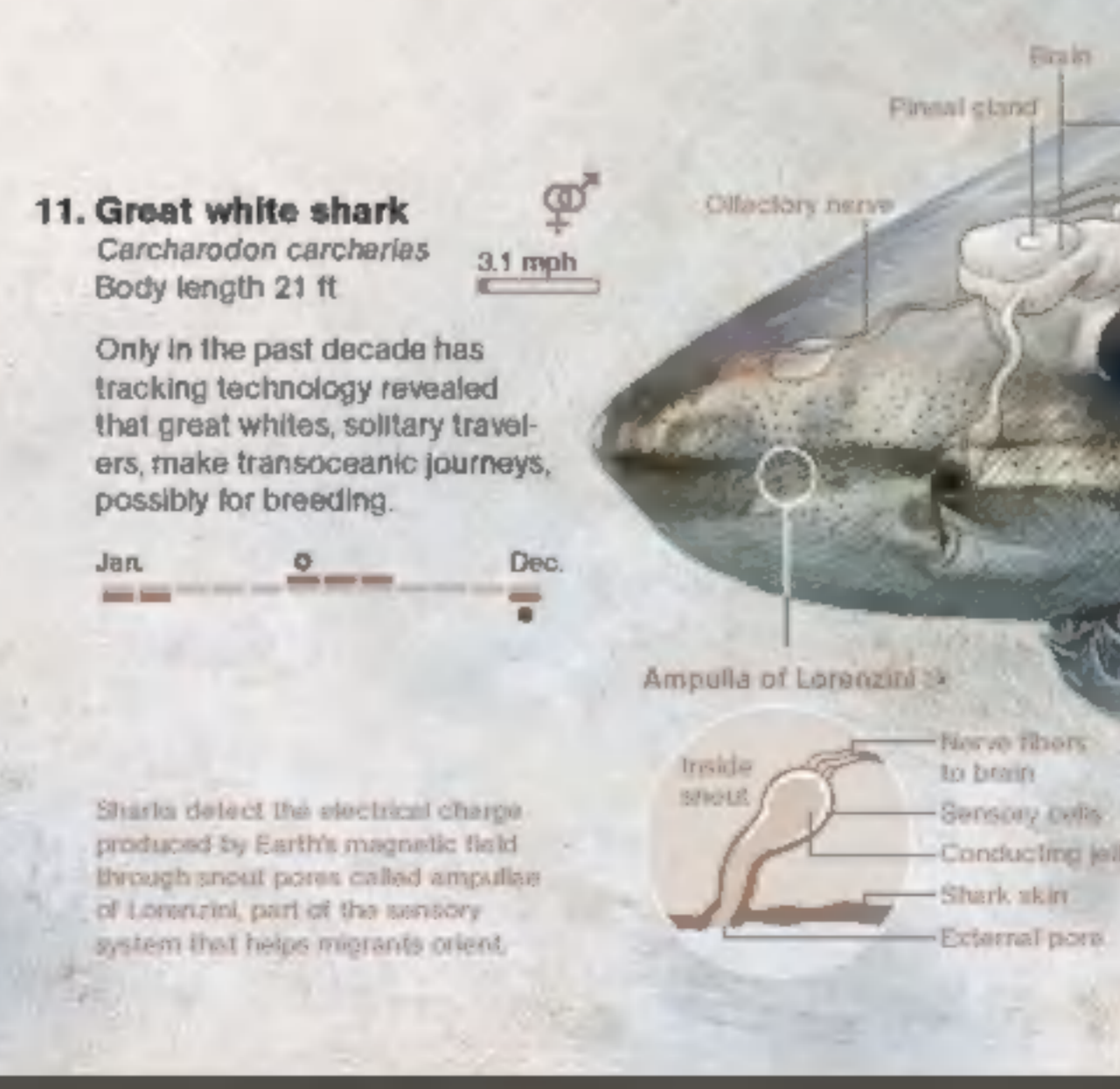
**13. Copepod**  
*Calanus sp.*  
Body length 0.2 in  
0.08 mph

The most massive migration on Earth occurs nightly at sea as a billion tons of tiny zooplankton, including shrimplike copepods, swim toward the surface to feed.



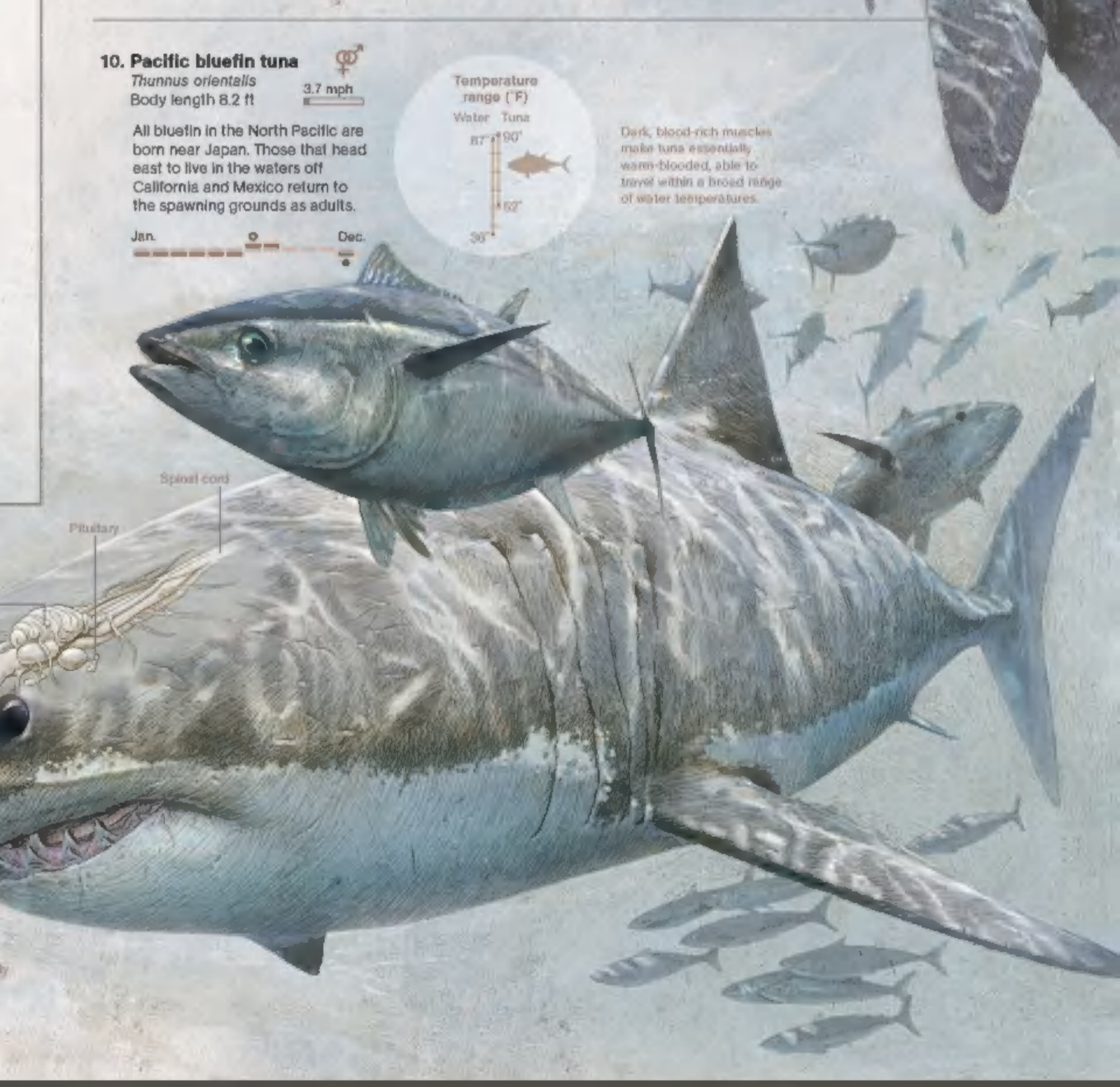
**12. European eel**  
*Anguilla anguilla*  
Body length 3.3 ft  
3.1 mph

Like all freshwater eel species, adults of breeding age migrate to mid-ocean spawning grounds. Only their offspring make the return trip, riding ocean currents.



**11. Great white shark**  
*Carcharodon carcharias*  
Body length 21 ft  
3.1 mph

Only in the past decade has tracking technology revealed that great whites, solitary travelers, make transoceanic journeys, possibly for breeding.

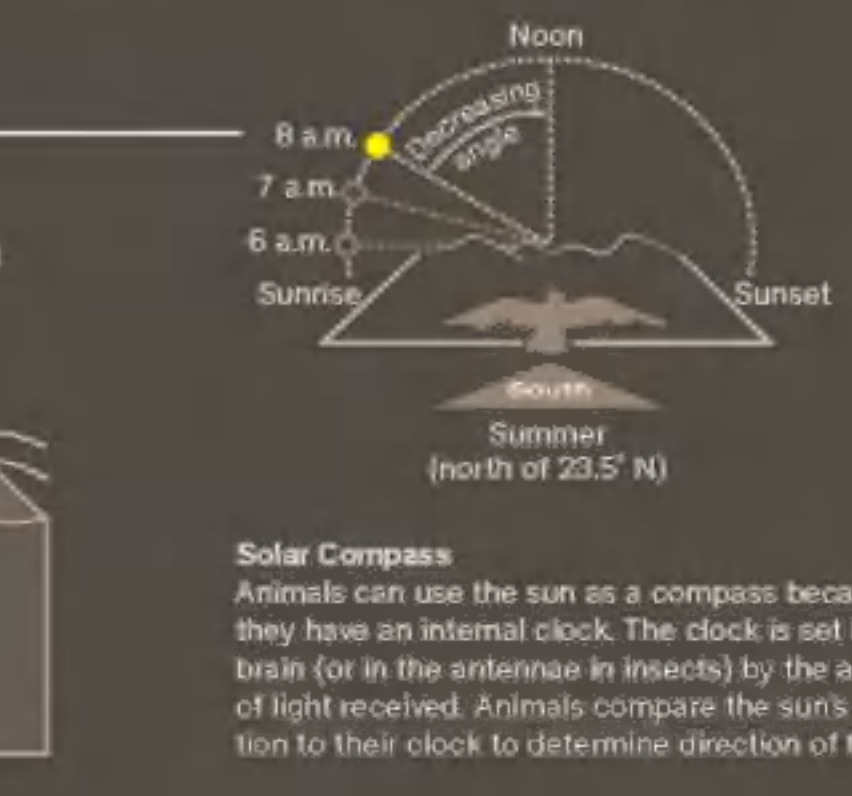
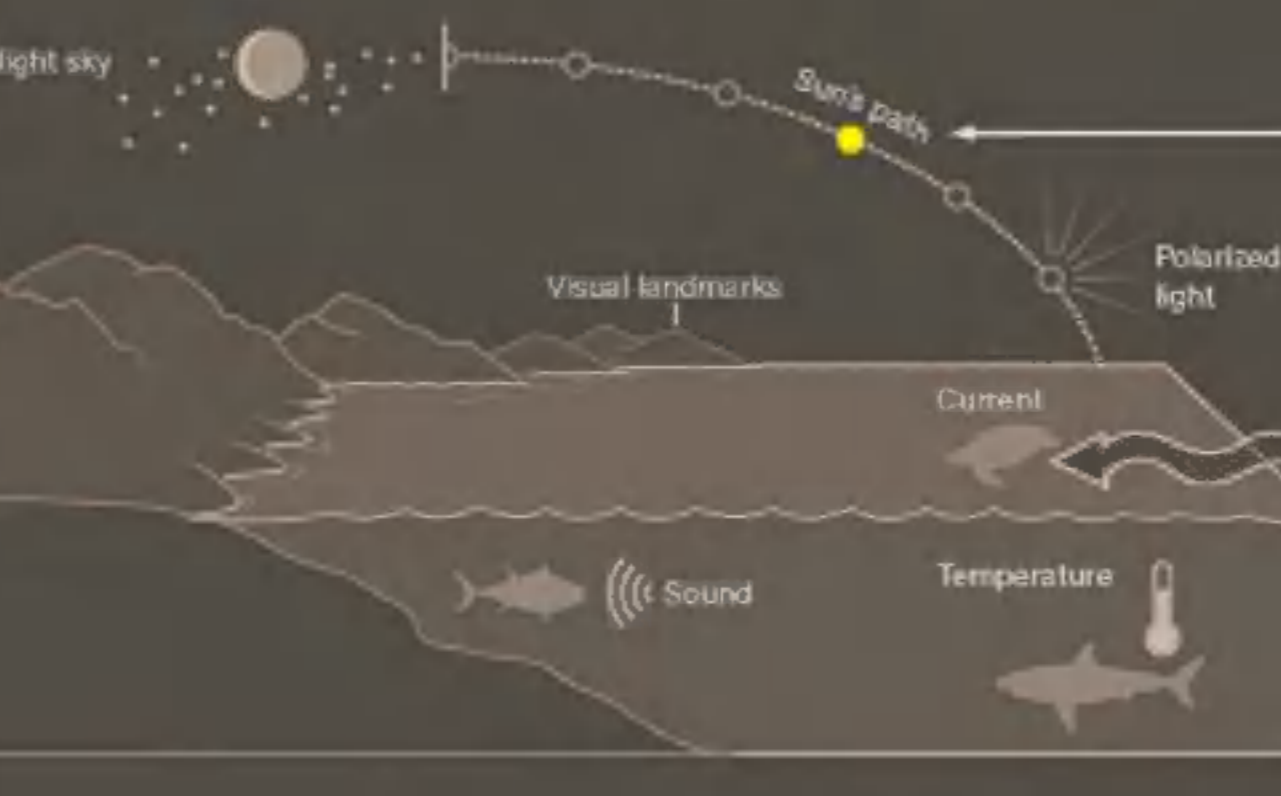
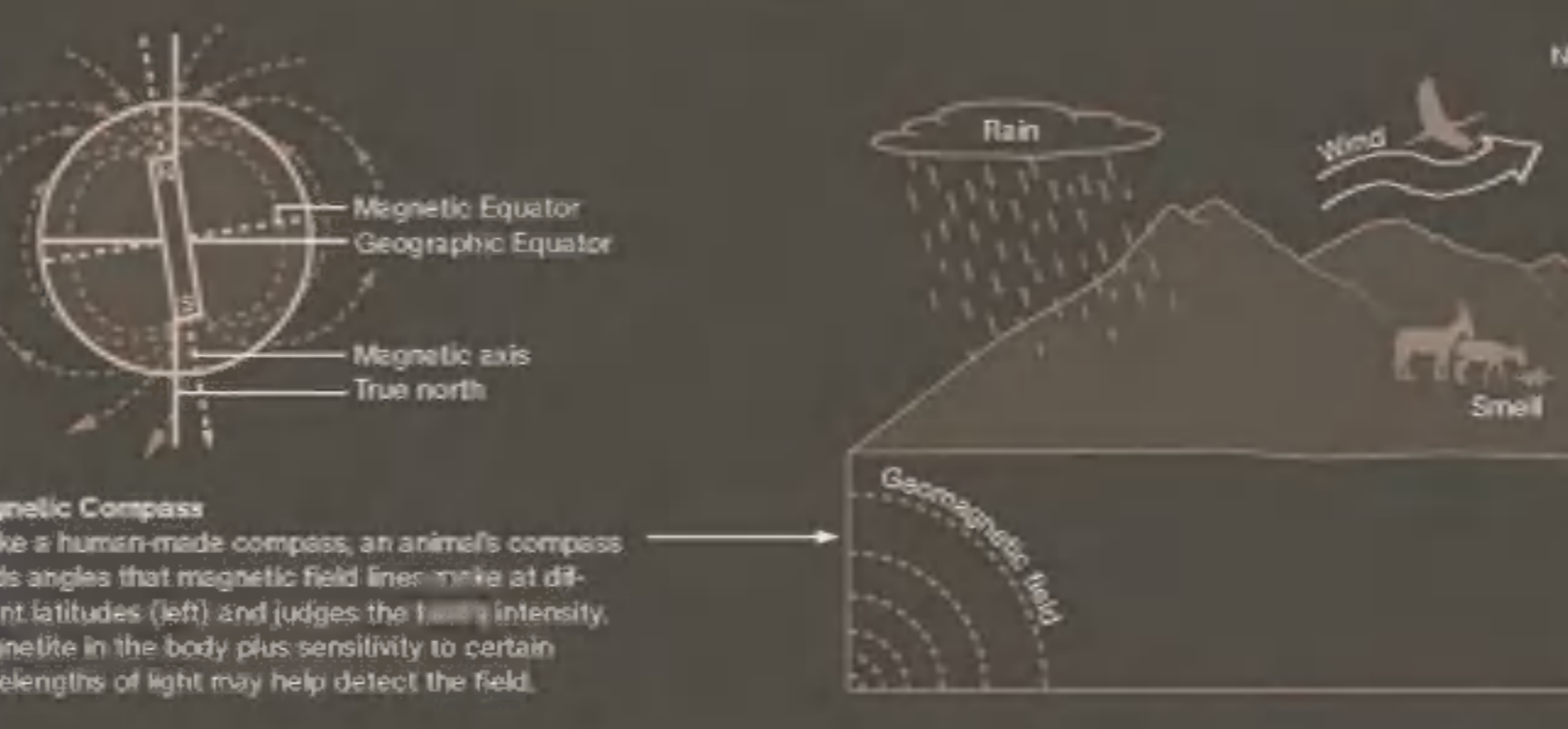


**10. Pacific bluefin tuna**  
*Thunnus orientalis*  
Body length 8.2 ft  
3.7 mph

All bluefin in the North Pacific are born near Japan. Those that head east to live in the waters off California and Mexico return to the spawning grounds as adults.

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Great Migrations

It's a journey as long as the Pole-to-Pole flight of an arctic tern, as short as the tree-to-pond hop of a jungle frog. What defines migration isn't distance but purpose: travel from one home to another to feed, to breed—to survive. Scientists are still decoding the feats of animal migration, sharing the awe that poet W. S. Merwin expressed of birds on their first flight south, “tracing a memory they did not have until they set out to remember it.”



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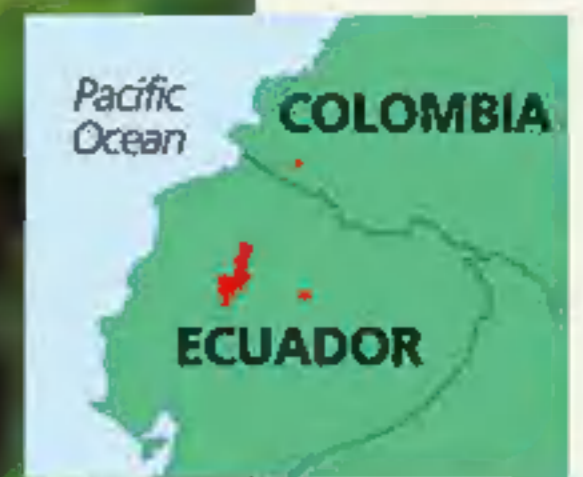


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**Giant Antpitta**  
(*Grallaria gigantea*)  
**Size:** Head and body length, 24 - 26.5 cm (9.5 - 10.4 inches)  
**Weight:** 204 - 266 g (7.2 - 9.4 oz)  
**Habitat:** Humid montane forest in a few small regions in the Andes Mountains of Colombia and Ecuador  
**Surviving number:** Estimated at 1,000 - 2,500

Photographed by Pete Oxford

# WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

An invisible giant? Not quite, but the giant antpitta is heard much more than it is seen. It stays out of sight in dark, dense undergrowth, where pairs go their separate ways to forage but remain within earshot of each other. In addition to its calls, the antpitta is capable of singing 60-100 notes over a span of just four to six seconds, and the male's song advertises his fitness as a mate while warding off intruders to his territory. The virtuoso singer isn't

much at flying, however, and sticks near the forest floor to probe the soft earth for food. But with its habitat being eaten up by deforestation, the antpitta is in real danger of disappearing forever.

As we see it, we can help make the world a better place. Raising awareness of endangered species is just one of the ways we at Canon are taking action—for the good of the planet we call home. Visit [canon.com/environment](http://canon.com/environment) to learn more.



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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- Great Migrations** 28 Birds, butterflies, and beasts take off. Humans interfere.  
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- The Lost Herds Are Found** 52 They survived Sudan's civil war yet still need protection.  
*By Matthew Teague Photographs by George Steinmetz*
- Southern Sudan's Shaky Peace** 62 The scars and hopes of a boy named Logocho mirror his land.  
*By Matthew Teague Photographs by George Steinmetz*
- 3 Degrees of Japan's Seas** 90 The waters host arctic crabs, temperate squid, tropical sharks.  
*Photographs by Brian Skerry*
- Unburying the Aztec** 110 Diggers find eagles, fur-wrapped knives, no emperor's tomb.  
*By Robert Draper Photographs by Kenneth Garrett and Jesús López*

**Special Supplement: Great Migrations/World Map**



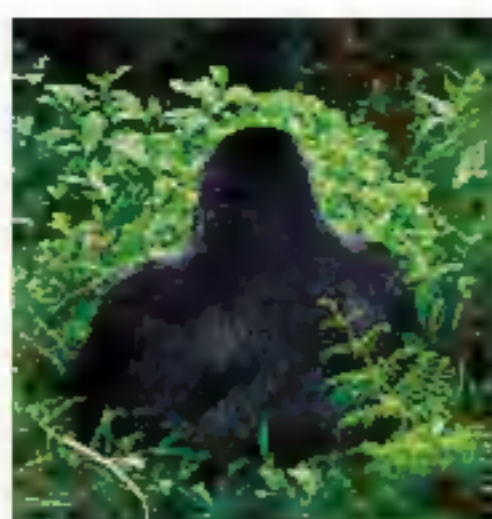
Blood drips from her lips as she squats to give birth. That's the duality of Tlaltecuhтли, Aztec earth goddess. No one knows what happened to the 12-ton monolith's midriff. Story on page 110.

KENNETH GARRETT



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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### CONSERVATION

#### Tracking Gorillas

Humans make them nervous. So census takers use clues like dung, nests, and trails.

### OCEANS

#### Underwater Exploration

Milestones include the only manned trip to the deepest point on Earth, the Sealab II habitat, and the discovery of the *Titanic*.

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Children at Work

Across the globe, 215 million youngsters make pots, sell trinkets, toil in agriculture.

### HEALTH

#### Medical Marijuana

It's legal in a dozen-plus states; a poll shows support for such laws in the rest of the U.S.

### THE BIG IDEA

#### Little Packages Do a Lot of Good 24

Designers devise a low-cost infant warmer, a purifying straw, a paper asthma device, and more.

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**Flashback**

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### On the Cover

Wildebeests kick up dust as they barrel across Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia at sunset.

*Photo by Chris Johns*



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Cape buffalo on the move in Botswana's Okavango Delta play a vital role in the region's ecosystem.

**I awoke at sunrise** to a day on the Serengeti Plain that scarcely resembled the peaceful night before. The landscape that had been so quiet and empty was filled with thousands of wildebeests. They had followed the rain in search of grass, but this hardly seemed like an organized migration. It was anarchy in motion; wildebeests bucked and staggered in tight circles. They are comical-looking animals. African folklore says they were made from spare parts left from the creation of other beasts, but their role in sustaining the Serengeti is serious. Their migratory patterns are critical.

Bison once played a similar role on the North American prairie. In 1806 William Clark wrote: "I ascended to the high Country and from an eminence I had a view of... a greater number of buffalow than I had ever seen before at one time. I must have seen near 20,000 of those animals feeding on this plain." When Clark journeyed west with Meriwether Lewis, tens of millions of bison lived on the grasslands, shaping vegetation, dispersing seeds, coexisting with burrowing owls and prairie dogs. By the late 1800s bison had been hunted nearly to extinction.

Fortunately, many other migratory spectacles survive. This month the world of migrations comes to life on the pages of our magazine, on the National Geographic Channel, and at [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com). Our photographers and writers spent two years on the project. They were astonished and inspired by the determination and grace of these animals. I am sure you will be too.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Johns". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.





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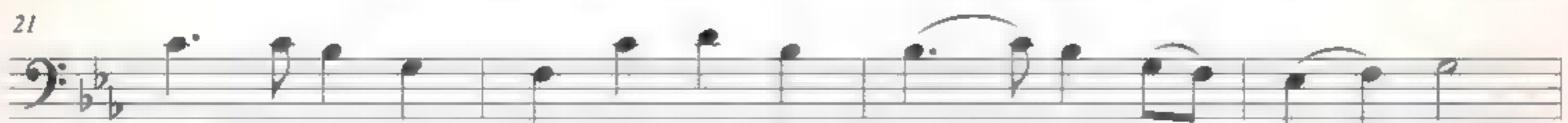
com - pa - ny with no peer. Hail! to our po - li - cies.



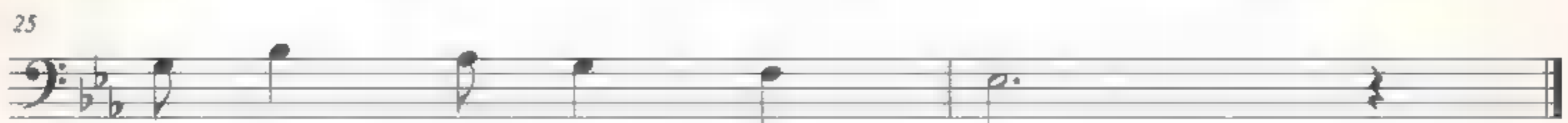
Cheer! to put - ting you at ease. Fight!\_Fight! for\_ Farm - ers.



A lo - cal and a chum. Hail! to our low\_ pri - ces.



Cheer! to our re - sponse to cri - sis. Fight!\_Fight! for\_ Farm - ers.



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A photograph of two young girls in a forest. The girl on the right, wearing an orange shirt, is smiling and holding a small butterfly in her hands. The girl on the left, wearing a green shirt, is looking at the butterfly. The background is a lush green forest.

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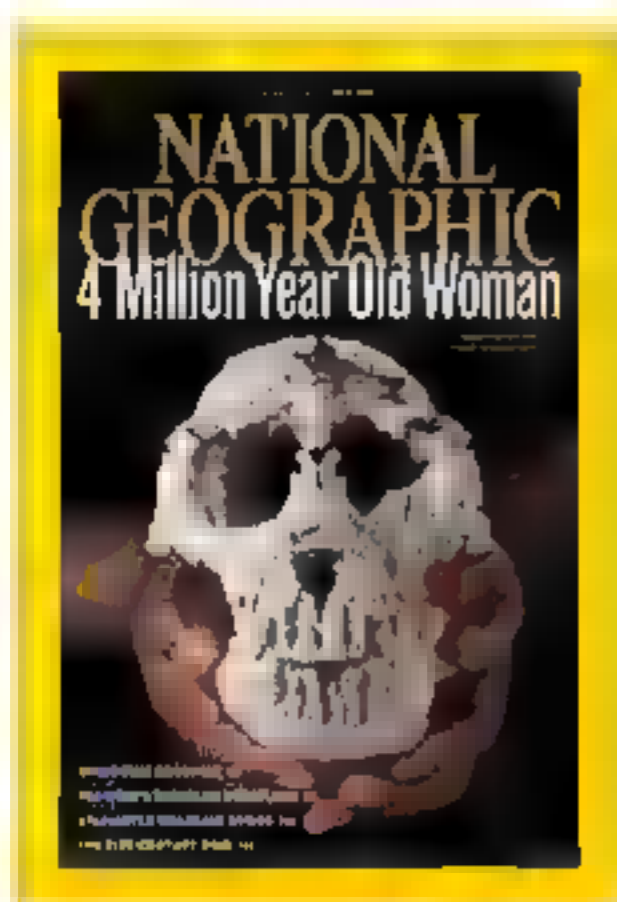
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July 2010

## Evolutionary Road

The title on the July 2010 cover reading "4-Million-Year-Old Woman" was a bit sensational and even misleading. A less interesting but more accurate title would have been "4-Million-Year-Old Female Hominid." The term "woman" refers to our own species and not to females of other species.

**BRIAN RITTER**  
Huntington Beach, California

This article is the best description of human evolution that I have ever read. Besides being understandable to a layperson (me), it illustrates the diligent work and dedication of the many archaeologists, paleontologists, and geologists who have devoted their lives and talents to this study. This article should elicit many responses from the creationists. Please publish some of these letters.

**RICHARD D. STACY**  
Montrose, Colorado

I thought you might find it interesting to see that your printer has messed up the July issue. Imagine my surprise when I cracked it open only to find the inside has articles from *Evolution Today* magazine. I was

crestfallen as I discovered that my joyful romp through wonderful lands to learn about other people and places had been replaced by a scientific treatise. I can only hope that next month the printer corrects the error so that I can resume reading the material I was interested in when I paid for my subscription.

**DAVE BUEHLER**  
Shoreline, Washington

## Bowerbirds

It took me a long time to get past the second page because I was deciding which bower I would have chosen! I wasn't even aware that I was doing it until I decided: bower #1 on page 70, for sure. It won on its symmetry and color scheme. I am also pretty sure that if my husband were a bowerbird, his bower would have been #4 on page 71—which would not even have been in the running.

**SUSAN DYRUD MACDONALD**  
Plymouth, Minnesota

I think the first time that I laughed out loud at a *National Geographic* photo was in the "Animals at Play" article from December 1994. The second time was seeing the confounded-looking bowerbird holding the pink paper clip.

**MATT JUDGE**  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## The 21st-Century Grid

Your article about the grid did not mention the linemen that keep the grid up and running. As a lineman's wife, I know firsthand the part these men and women play in the construction, upkeep, and repair of the grid. From transmission lines to distribution lines, without linemen, make no

mistake, there would be no grid. The function of a lineman used to be recognized as a valuable part of society. Glen Campbell romanticized it in the song "Wichita Lineman," and the book about a lineman's life, *Slim*, was made into a movie. However, this acknowledgment seems to have gone by the wayside. I fear the very idea of such a technologically complicated and vastly modern new grid has led us to forget the men and women who use hard work and know-how to keep the electricity flowing.

**NANCI LEICHING**  
Somers, Connecticut

You might have mentioned the grid's vulnerability to an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack. An EMP is a high-energy magnetic wave that is created upon detonating a nuclear device. A high-altitude nuclear detonation destroys sensitive electrical equipment over a wide area. This would include computers that control the grid—many are not shielded for such an event. Military experts testifying to the U.S. Congress on this issue warned that as more rogue nations obtain nuclear capability, the United States becomes more vulnerable to attack. This could cause a cascade failure across the United States, which would be an infrastructure disaster.

**GREGORY L. SMITH**  
Chatham, New Jersey

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## LETTERS

A key fact was left out of the story. Study after study shows that our current grid can easily accommodate 20 percent or more of wind and solar power. While you label wind and solar as “intermittent,” you explain how the largest blackout in the U.S. was caused by existing fossil fuel and nuclear plants but somehow fail to apply the label of intermittent to these plants. The grid has always dealt with intermittence, both on the generating and the demand sides, although getting to 100 percent renewable energy will indeed require some additional storage capacity.

You also say that coal-fired electricity costs a few cents a kilowatt-hour, while renewables are substantially more. Old coal-fired power plants without air pollution control devices did generate electricity at between 2.5 to 3.5 cents in the past. However, new state and federal regulations make coal-fired plants more expensive than wind power and even solar when you truly consider the value of solar—such as the ability to site it at the point of demand so that you don’t need new transmission.

**ROBERT UKEILEY**  
Berea, Kentucky

Based on a report I heard, U.S. power-production efficiency has not improved since the days of the Eisenhower Administration. That is simply deplorable. If the expanding electricity grid is to function properly, new efficiencies should be mandatory.

**M. VINCENT TURNER**  
Bristol, Connecticut

I agree that we need to upgrade our electrical grid with better,

more efficient technology. But it’s concerning that we’re focusing on green energy when it doesn’t seem nearly as efficient as coal, nuclear, or hydroelectric power. I’m not against wind or solar, but they’re not the answer to our energy needs—they’re just a piece of the overall picture.

**JEREMY BUNDGARD**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

I agree that we need to upgrade our electrical grid with better, more efficient technology. But it’s concerning that we’re focusing on green energy when it doesn’t seem nearly as efficient as coal, nuclear, or hydroelectric power.

I was surprised that no mention was made of the pioneering work of Nikola Tesla, who is the father of high-voltage AC power transmission. Edison’s low-voltage DC distribution system was a technological dead end. Tesla invented the high-voltage polyphase AC power system that the modern high-voltage DC power transmission systems are now based upon. Tesla also discovered the principle of the rotating magnetic field. This led to the patenting of the ubiquitous AC induction motor, which drives most of the rotating loads of industrial and domestic appliances. Together these form a large part of the

grid’s load. It is very sad that Tesla is now almost forgotten in the public mind.

**RON BARNES**  
King’s Lynn, England

I was appalled that you would publish an article that refers to the vulnerability of our electric power grid, and then include a detailed map of the grid, showing all the distribution lines and generating routing centers. Could you have made it any easier for those who would do us harm?

**GEORGE MCPHETERS**  
Burlington, North Carolina

### **Pakistan’s Heartland**

John Lancaster’s article described Pakistan’s rich historical past, reflecting multicultural influences rooted in an atmosphere of tolerance and positive development. However, there was essentially no focus on the nature and identity of the threat, the Taliban. The viciousness of the Taliban toward Pakistan’s sovereignty was described in such neutral terms that the reader might think that the threat was about as serious as the common cold. An opportunity to disclose the impact of the Taliban and its potential destruction of all that is good in Pakistan was lost. In sharp contrast there was no attempt to attenuate the anti-American feelings expressed by students at the madrassa in Bahawalpur, many of whom will embark on a course of jihad, fighting, and killing following graduation. Is there any pro-American feeling in Pakistan? Not according to this one-sided article.

**ROBERT B. REDDEN**  
North Falmouth, Massachusetts



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EDITORS' CHOICE

**Paul Cotter** Charlotte, North Carolina

As his mother's health declined, Cotter, 52, thought "of all her small acts of kindness—like the tomato soup she made for me when I was a little boy." This shot was his way to say "farewell and to thank her for warming my heart."

**Navid Baraty** Brooklyn, New York

Most evenings San Francisco's Ocean Beach is foggy, cold, and empty. But last fall Baraty, 29, caught this sunset sight: a "multitude of little silhouettes on the glistening sand with mist encroaching."



READERS' CHOICE



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Once an ornate apartment building, Detroit's Lee Plaza is now adorned by graffiti.

Andrew Moore's book *Detroit Disassembled* is published by Akron Art Museum/Damiani Editore.

**Detroit Undone** With its shuttered factories, schools, homes, and theaters, Detroit is an obvious symbol of America's slow industrial decline. But where others see an end, I see ■ beginning. The potent forces of nature and entropy are starting to reclaim and transform the Motor City. These pictures are my attempt to elegize the past by documenting the emerging landscape.

My father was an architect, so I grew up learning about buildings. I see each one as having a "life," from construction to occupation, abandonment to reuse. They're also chroniclers of history, culture, and time. As a photographer, I look for places where the structures tell a poignant narrative. In the past that's led me to Havana and Sarajevo. Now it's taken me to Detroit.

At first glance it seems like a modern Pompeii. But look closer at the ruins. In some places man's work is yielding to green, as at this east Detroit house (left). Elsewhere urban prairies and farming collectives are taking root. No one knows what will become of Detroit. But decay isn't static. And this city's story isn't over.





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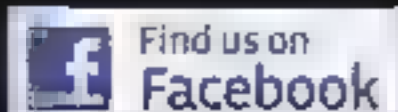
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At the former Cass Technical High School—built in 1917, damaged by fire in 2007, and vandalized ever since—an abandoned chemistry lab is a study in disarray. Students had been transferred to an adjacent new building in 2005.



The Highland Park Ford plant was designed by Detroit architect Albert Kahn. It opened in 1910 and in 1913 became the first auto plant in the world to house an integrated, moving assembly line. Now it's a storage site, though some areas—like this moss-carpeted office in an administration building next to the factory—have been unused for decades.



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In Detroit's abandoned United Artists Theatre, a lighted arch warms the cavernous auditorium and its once majestic organ screen. From 1928 to 1974, the building showed films and housed both retail and office space. From 1978 to 1983, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra recorded here.





▲ Mt. Emei waterfall.

Shot using the Samsung NX10 with 18-55mm lens, f/22, ISO 400, 4 exposure.



**TYRONE  
TURNER**

Tyrone Turner is a photojournalist based in Arlington, Virginia. His assignments have taken him from Brazil to Baghdad to the bayous of Louisiana with his camera in hand. In addition to his work for *National Geographic*, Turner has produced award-winning photographs for national and international publications such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

## Photography Flows on China's Sacred Mountain

There is an abundance of beauty on the slopes of Mt. Emei, in the Sichuan Province of Western China. Much of this beauty comes from the many Buddhist temples that dot its slopes, making the mountain a popular destination for pilgrims of all ages.

It is the facet of Emei's natural beauty, however, that *National Geographic* photographer Tyrone Turner was moved to capture—resulting in the almost surreal image you see above.

Turner describes: "It was taken at the end of a hike down Mt. Emei. Discovering this scene, I knew that I wanted to shoot it with a long exposure so that the water would flow through the bottom of the image, framed by the boulders."

Having come upon such an opportunity, he wasted no time: "I hopped over the railing, scrambled into the water, and set up the camera on a tripod in the stream. The convenient size of the NX10 made it all so easy; it's a camera that doesn't get in the way, wherever you need to go to get your shot."

Not only did the AMOLED help him perfectly frame the scene, but the multi-exposure settings lent the water a luminous quality. Turner says: "Thanks to its large APS-C sensor, the NX10 gives me the supreme picture quality I need."



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VISIONS OF EARTH





**Scotland** Peering through glass, visitors at the Edinburgh Zoo regard—and are regarded by—Tibor, a Sumatran tiger. The three-year-old male was born in captivity. About 400 of this subspecies, the world's smallest tiger, live in the wild.

PHOTO: DAVID CHESKIN, PRESS ASSOCIATION/AP IMAGES





**Kenya** Aimed skyward from photos atop a train, the eyes of women pierce a rooftop landscape in Nairobi's Kibera slum. The display, part of a global art project, paid tribute to women from Africa, Brazil, India, and Cambodia.









**United States** A 14-week-old male fawn gazes out a window at the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center. The Arlington, Washington, facility rehabs regional animals, including up to 30 orphaned or injured young deer each spring.





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PHOTO: ANNIE MARIE MUSSELMAN

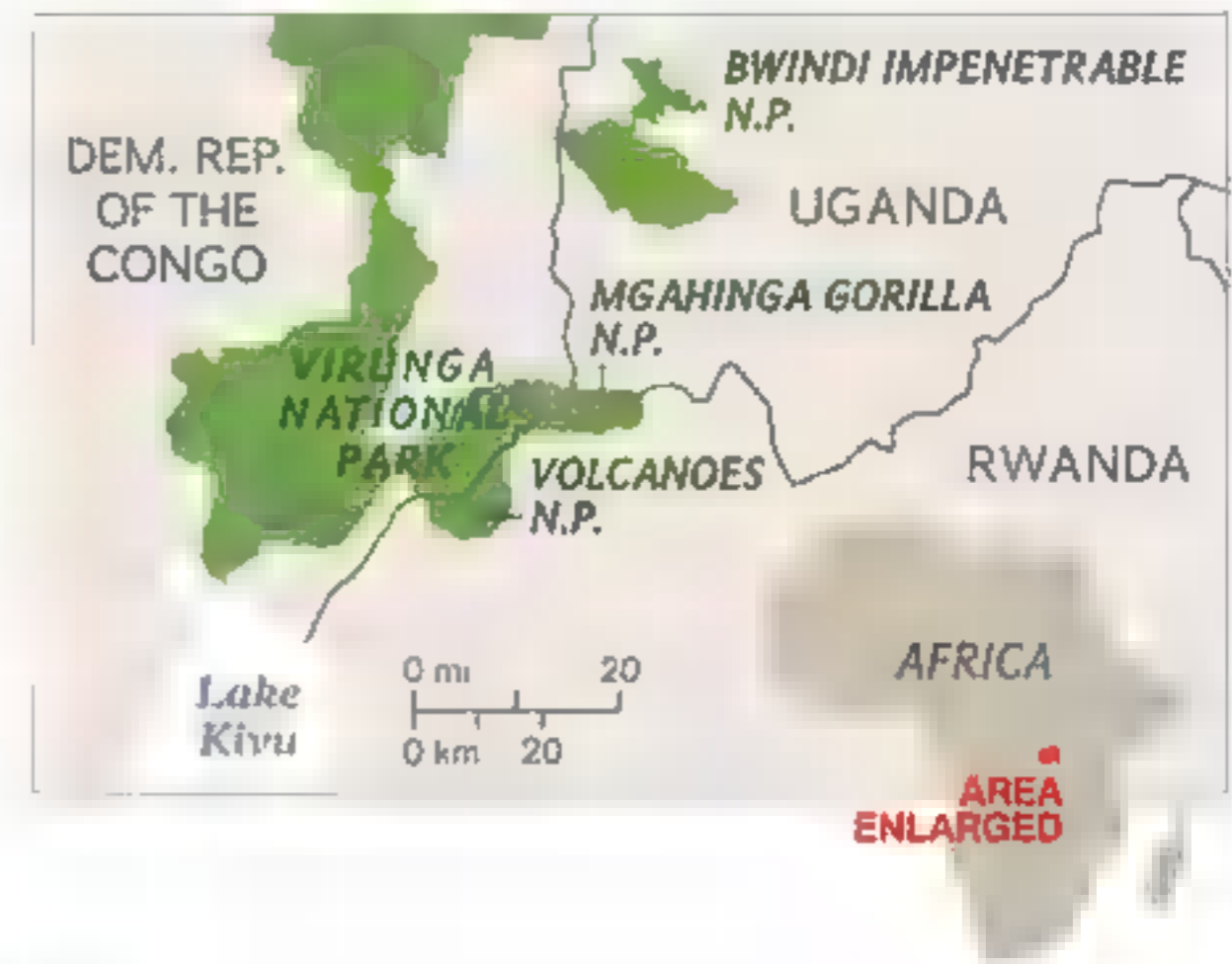




# CONSERVATION

**Tracking Gorillas** When counting mountain gorillas, try to avoid the animals themselves. That's the tack primatologist Martha Robbins and 71 others took while conducting their latest census of the endangered species. "We don't want to encounter unhabituated gorillas," she explains, "because it is stressful for them." Rather than seeking out individuals, the team followed clues such as dung, nests, and trails to estimate gorilla numbers in the volcanic Virunga Mountains of equatorial Africa—one of only two places where the great apes live.

At last count, in 2006, some 680 were estimated to remain in that area and Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The 2010 Virunga census, followed by a Bwindi survey next year, will tell how the gorillas are faring now, after years of poaching, deforestation, and political unrest. Also expected, thanks to fecal-sample analysis: fresh insights into the elusive creatures' genetic diversity and overall health. —Catherine Barker



The Virunga range is home to one of just two mountain gorilla populations that remain today.



In Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, a young silverback sits in solitude.



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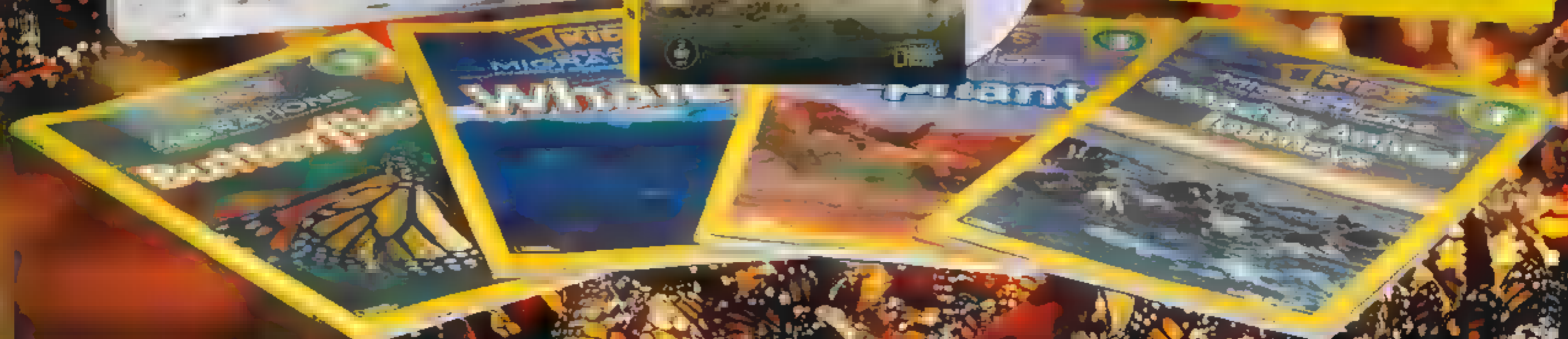




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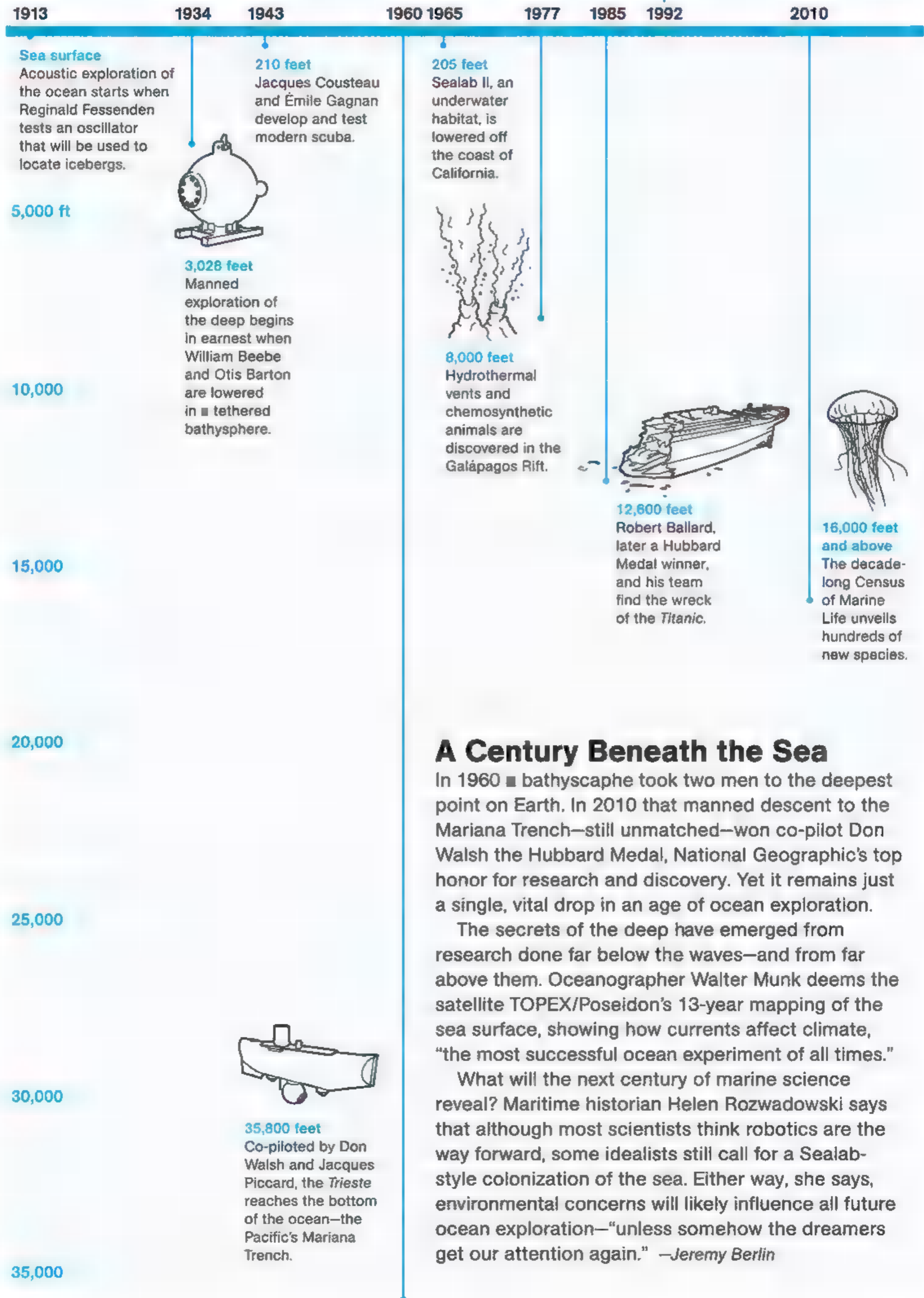
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The TOPEX/Poseidon  
satellite begins mapping  
the surface of the sea.

## MILESTONES IN OCEAN EXPLORATION



## A Century Beneath the Sea

In 1960 a bathyscaphe took two men to the deepest point on Earth. In 2010 that manned descent to the Mariana Trench—still unmatched—won co-pilot Don Walsh the Hubbard Medal, National Geographic’s top honor for research and discovery. Yet it remains just a single, vital drop in an age of ocean exploration.

The secrets of the deep have emerged from research done far below the waves—and from far above them. Oceanographer Walter Munk deems the satellite TOPEX/Poseidon’s 13-year mapping of the sea surface, showing how currents affect climate, “the most successful ocean experiment of all times.”

What will the next century of marine science reveal? Maritime historian Helen Rozwadowski says that although most scientists think robotics are the way forward, some idealists still call for a Sealab-style colonization of the sea. Either way, she says, environmental concerns will likely influence all future ocean exploration—“unless somehow the dreamers get our attention again.” —Jeremy Berlin



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Liyakot Ali, 13, makes cooking pots in a Bangladesh factory.

**No Minor Issue** Across the globe, kids can be seen hawking trinkets and swabbing down tea shops. But these are only the most visible of the world's 215 million child laborers. A new report by the United Nations' International Labour Organization (ILO) says that 60 percent of them toil unseen in the agricultural sector, often for little or no pay. And the isolation of those in domestic work, says Human Rights Watch, can increase the odds of their exploitation.

Between 2004 and 2008 the number of child laborers decreased by seven million; Asia and Latin America, particularly Brazil, led the way, thanks to government initiatives. Yet South Asia

remains home to the most in the world; one in four sub-Saharan kids is still classified as a child laborer; and the economic crisis could stall progress by feeding demand for cheap labor.

Going forward, the ILO urges a global commitment to compulsory education—by abolishing school fees, for instance—and government pacts with organized workers. It estimates that spending \$140 billion in sub-Saharan Africa over 20 years could produce up to \$724 billion in benefits, including massive health-care savings as children cease doing hazardous work. "The world can afford this," the report concludes. Call it a minor investment with a major payoff. —Noy Thrupkaew

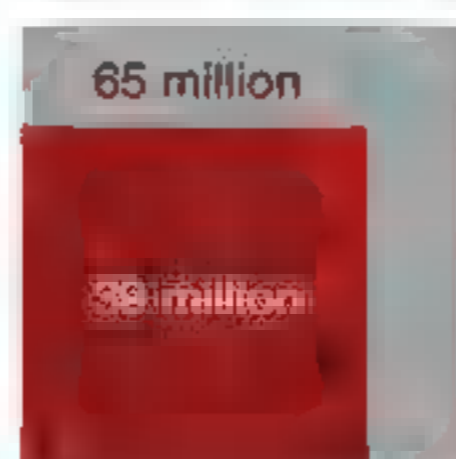
### Child labor estimates by region 2008

Child laborers include those under 12 doing any jobs other than household chores. Long hours, underground work, and heavy-machinery use are termed hazardous.

#### Asia; the Pacific\*



#### Sub-Saharan Africa



#### Latin America; the Caribbean



#### Other



\*EXCLUDES AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, AND PARTS OF CENTRAL ASIA



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March

1933 National Geographic magazine

“...the gondola plunged into free fall and the men struggled to bail out with their parachutes but Stevens got stuck halfway through the escape hatch. Kepner kicked furiously at Stevens' chest to free him but...”

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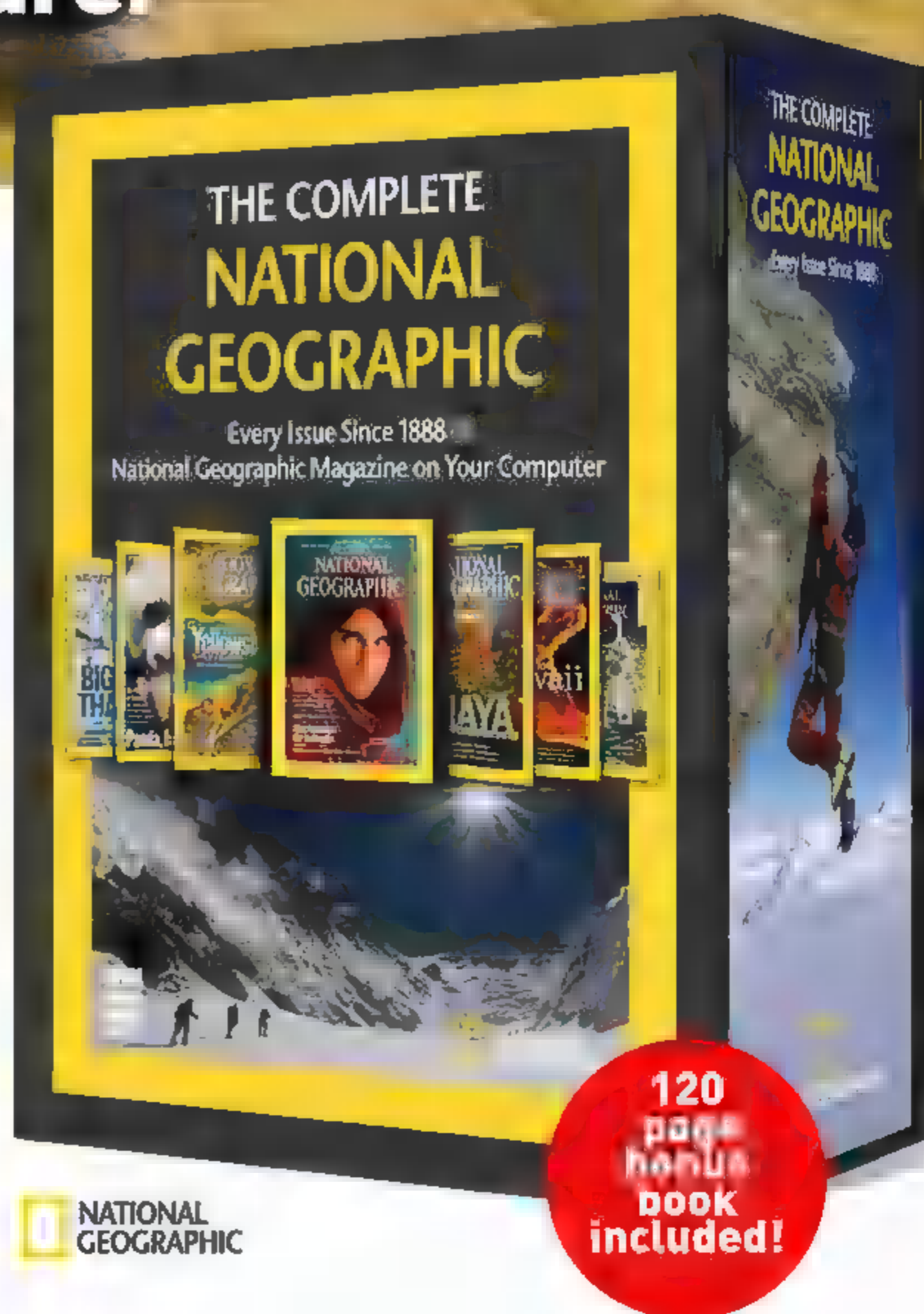
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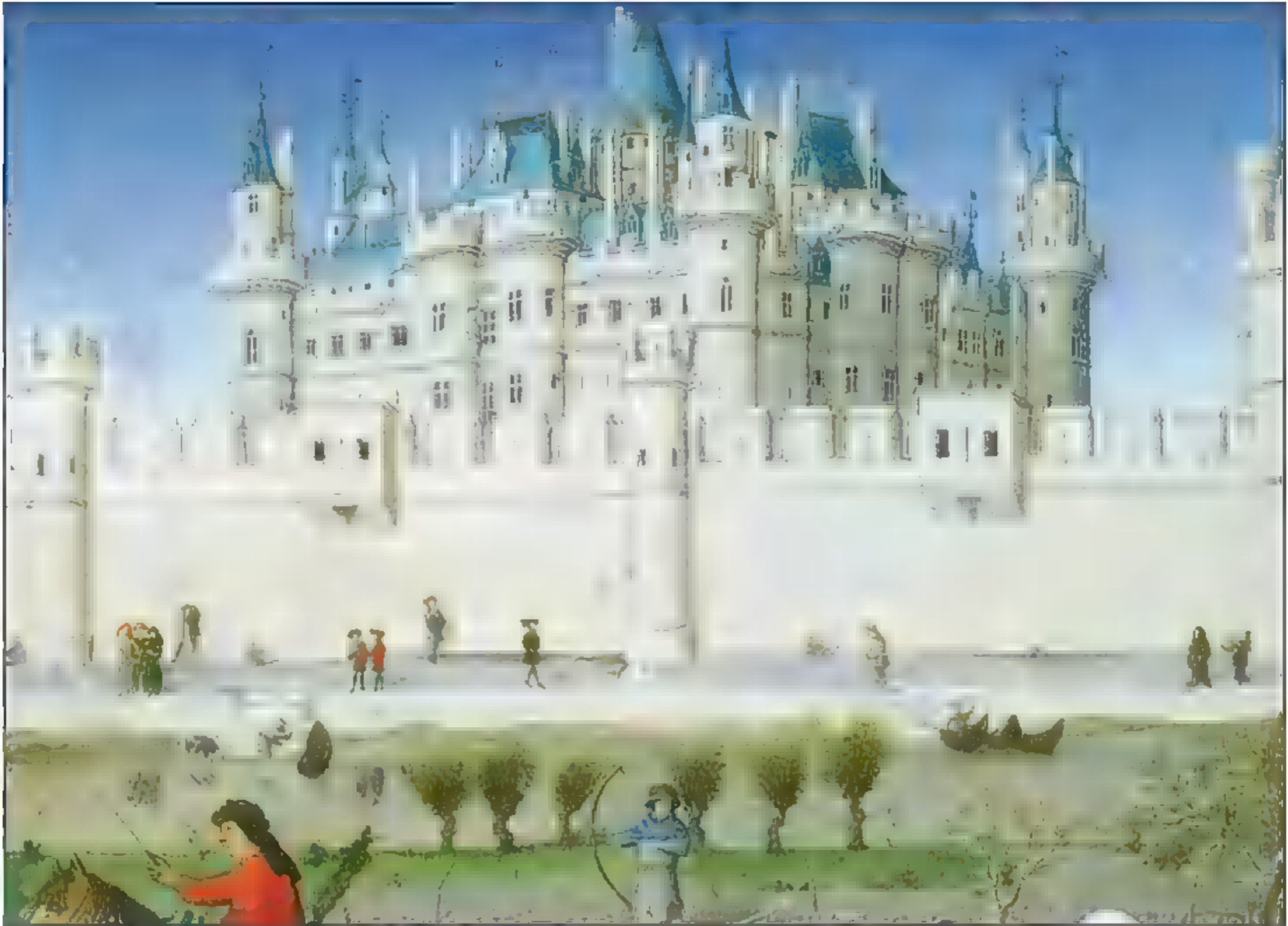
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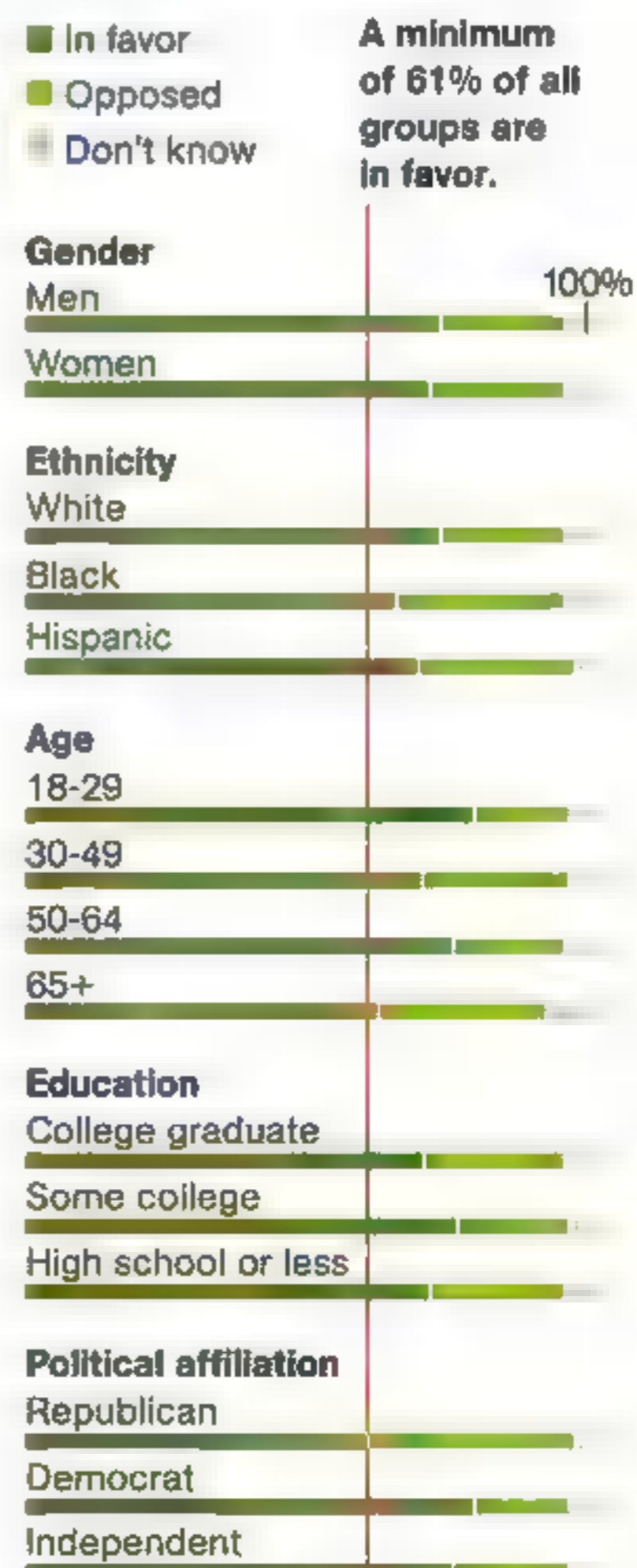
Medical marijuana like this is federally supplied to only a handful of patients.

**Reefer Referral** Here's a sign that the times are a changin': Nearly three out of four Americans say they favor legalizing medical marijuana in their state, according to a 2010 Pew Research Center survey. And 41 percent think all marijuana should be legal, up from 35 percent in 2008 and 12 percent in a 1969 Gallup poll.

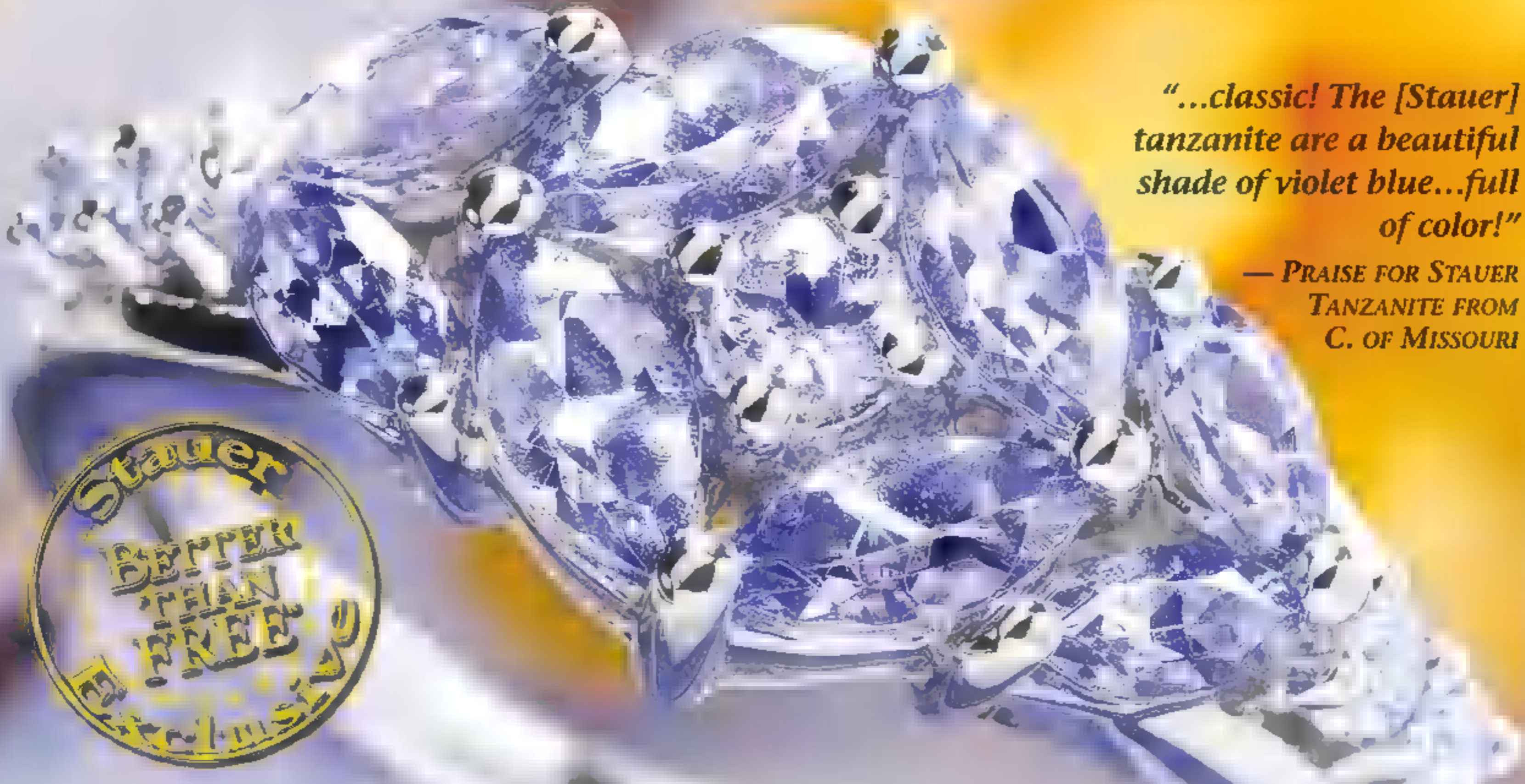
Pot has become political in recent years. This summer Congress let the District of Columbia join a dozen-plus states with medical-marijuana laws on the books. Proponents say legalization will create tax revenues and save money on enforcement. And the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association have endorsed research on the plant's makeup. Issued for glaucoma and to help cancer patients deal with chemotherapy, cannabinoids like THC are also being probed for anticancer properties.

All of which means aging hippies aren't alone. The Pew poll found backing for medical marijuana across the political spectrum and all age groups—a clear sign that tolerance is growing. —Alex Dominguez

**Approval in the U.S. for medical marijuana 2010**







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Our buyer recently secured a huge cache of beautiful rare tanzanite, the precious stone loved for its vivid violet-blue color. Today you can own over 1 carat of this rare stone (1,000 times rarer than diamonds) in our spectacular **Tanzanite Cluster Ring** with a suggested retail of \$795 for only \$95. Want to learn how to get

this magnificent ring for **Better Than Free**...read on.

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*It started with a lightning bolt.* One strike set the African plains on fire and uncovered a secret that was buried for more than 585 million years. Tanzanite naturally occurs in only one place on Earth: Tanzania's remote Merelani Hills, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro.

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from that remote spot beneath Kilimanjaro, that's it. No more tanzanite.

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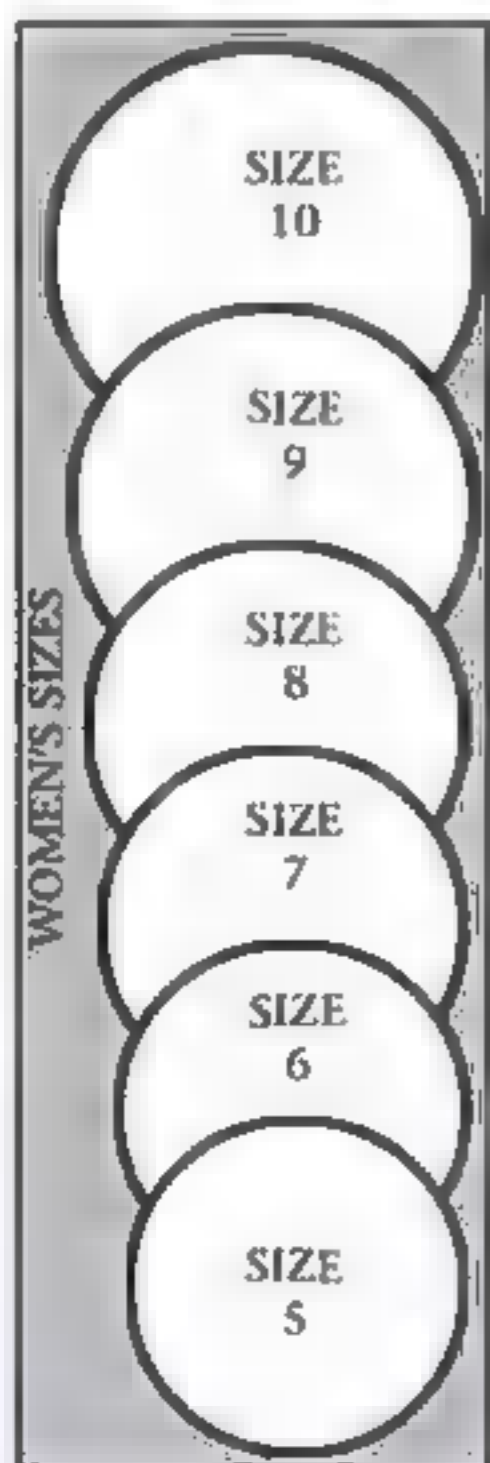


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# Big Ideas

## Little Packages



CAN GOOD DESIGN SAVE THE WORLD? It just might, one novel idea at a time. Designers have always dreamed up innovative goods for those who could afford such things: New offerings include solar roof tiles, electric motorcycles, and more. Now, sparked by programs such as the Entrepreneurial Design for Extreme Affordability course at Stanford University's Institute of Design (source for several

items on these pages), some are taking a look at the concerns of people in developing countries as well. Keeping local culture in mind, designers are creating products to meet communities' particular needs. It turns out that even the most pressing problems, from health care to potable water, can have affordable—and beautifully designed—solutions. —Margaret G. Zackowitz





### Infant Warmer

Around 19 million low-birth-weight babies are born every year in developing countries. Unable to regulate their body temperatures, many die. The Embrace helps to warm vulnerable infants (a special pouch slips into the back of the bag to provide hours of safe heat) while allowing for nursing and cuddling.

**Developed by** Jane Chen, Linus Liang, Naganand Murty, Rahul Panicker  
**Website** [embraceglobal.org](http://embraceglobal.org)  
**Launch country** India

### Asthma Device

Young asthmatics often can't coordinate breathing with the aerosol puff dispensed by inhalers. The folded-paper Respira "spacer" traps medication around the mouth so that it can be inhaled. Conventional spacers can run \$20 or more—a prohibitive cost in the developing world, where asthma rates are rising. Respira costs about a dollar.

**Developed by** Eric Green, Santiago Ocejo, Barry Wohl  
**Website** [respiradesign.org](http://respiradesign.org)  
**Launch country** Mexico

### Purifying Straw

Some 900 million people lack access to safe drinking water. Sipping through the LifeStraw filters surface water on-site, reducing the transmission of bacteria and viruses. Thousands of ten-inch LifeStraws were donated to Haiti after this year's earthquake. Each filters about 160 gallons; a new, shorter model, nearly 265.

**Developed by** Vestergaard Frandsen  
**Website** [lifestraw.com](http://lifestraw.com)  
**Launch country** Kenya



### Water Container

In impoverished rural areas, clean water is often miles away from the people who need it, leaving them susceptible to waterborne diseases. The sturdy Q Drum holds 13 gallons in a rolling container that eases the burden of transporting safe, potable water—a task that falls mostly to women and children.

**Developed by** P. J. and J. P. S. Hendrikse  
**Website** [qdrum.co.za](http://qdrum.co.za)  
**Launch country** South Africa



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PHOTOS: REBECCA HALE, NGM STAFF (WARMER); MARK THIESSEN, NGM STAFF (INHALER); RENEE COMET (LIFESTRAW, Q DRUM)



A silver SUV is parked in a garage. The car is shown from a rear three-quarter view, highlighting its sleek design and alloy wheels. The background is a blurred garage interior with a window showing a bright sky. The text "NOT BORN YESTERDAY" is overlaid in a white, outlined, sans-serif font on the lower left side of the image.

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### **Chili Grinder**

Ethiopian women have for centuries crushed chili peppers by hand—a time-consuming, painful way to add value to a staple spice. The Pepper Eater mills chilies four times faster, creating uniform flakes and sparing hands from chili-oil burns.

**Developed by** Samuel Hamner, Scott Sadlon  
**Website** [thepeppereater.org](http://thepeppereater.org)  
**Launch country** Ethiopia



### **Sugarcane Charcoal**

Burning wood and dung, the main fuel sources for many in the developing world, has contributed to deforestation and respiratory ailments. Not only do briquettes made from crushed sugarcane stalks make use of an abundant local resource, they burn more cleanly and allow residents to start a charcoal business for less than \$50.

**Developed by** MIT D-Lab  
**Website** [d-lab.mit.edu/resources](http://d-lab.mit.edu/resources)  
**Launch country** Haiti



### **Portable Clay Cooler**

Building upon an ancient food-storage technique, the pot-in-pot system uses evaporation from a layer of wet sand between two nesting pots to help extend the life of farmers' goods. Tomatoes can last weeks instead of just days, meaning more fresh produce at the market and more income for farmers.

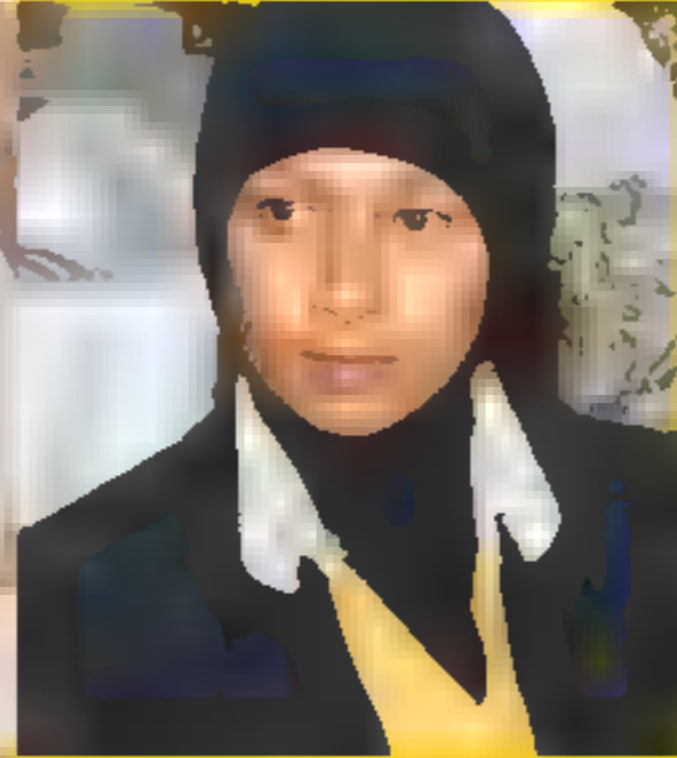
**Developed by** Mohammed Bah Abba  
**Website** none available  
**Launch country** Nigeria



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# meet one of these innovators

Malang in East Java, Indonesia, is rich in sweet potatoes—and opportunity. One 18-year-old student found a way to use these vegetables to make pastry. Now, boosted by the Shell LiveWIRE program, she runs her own food company.



Seeing the vegetables litter the market streets around her house gave Malariantika Yulianggi an idea. "I was studying agricultural technology at Brawijaya University in Malang and wondered if the sweet potatoes could be a cheap alternative to wheat flour," explains Anggi, who prefers to use her nickname. "I experimented with a few recipes and it worked."

She made her own pia, a pastry stuffed with a mixture of sweet potatoes and anything from green beans to chocolate, and sold it to students at her university. Her snacks were so successful that she decided to go into partnership with a fellow student already in the catering business. Anggi repackaged her product and marketed it to shops. Then in 2009 she heard about the Shell LiveWIRE Business Start-Up awards.

"I was awarded 20 million rupiah (around \$2,220) for supplies and equipment, as well as two years' business and marketing coaching sessions," says Anggi. "Winning Shell LiveWIRE proved to my family I can run a successful business."

In 2009 *BusinessWeek* Asia listed Anggi among the finalists for young entrepreneur of the year. Four other LiveWIRE beneficiaries also appeared, for businesses ranging from shoe design to photography, nutmeg oil to motorbike seats.

For Anggi the program has helped to elevate her from student to successful businesswoman. It raised her profile in the media, helping her to access new markets. "It was great to receive the extra support," she says. "I advise other young entrepreneurs to never give up—it is self-belief that will help you succeed."

## Hatching Young Business

Business ideas of all shapes and sizes are born every corner of the globe. Shell celebrates and nurtures young innovators whose knowledge, creativity and ideas help them to realize their local business dreams. And Shell LiveWIRE is ready to help them succeed.



### Shell launched the LiveWIRE program

in 1982 in a Scottish town to combat high levels of youth unemployment. It now runs in over 20 countries and has encouraged around 1.3 million people ages 16–30 to develop their ideas. Its objective is to provide support and access to guidance to young entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs. All programs seek to add value to existing local policies and other initiatives providing support for the development of young people and their economic future.



### **Solar Roof Tiles**

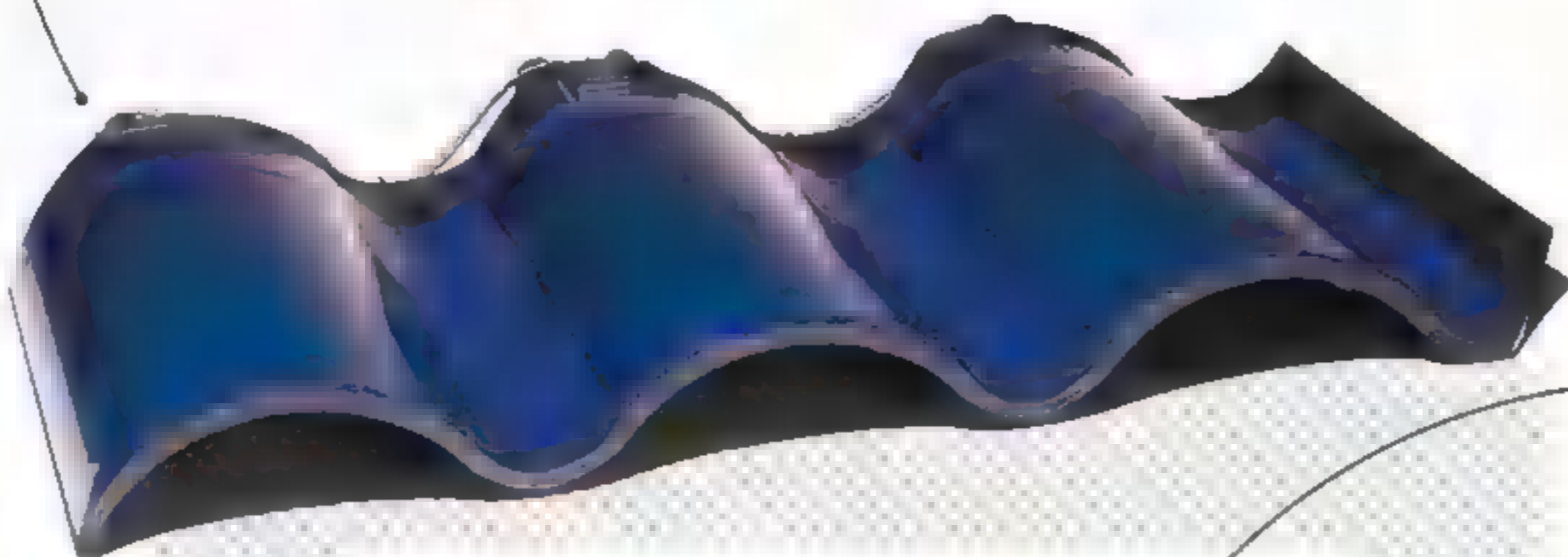
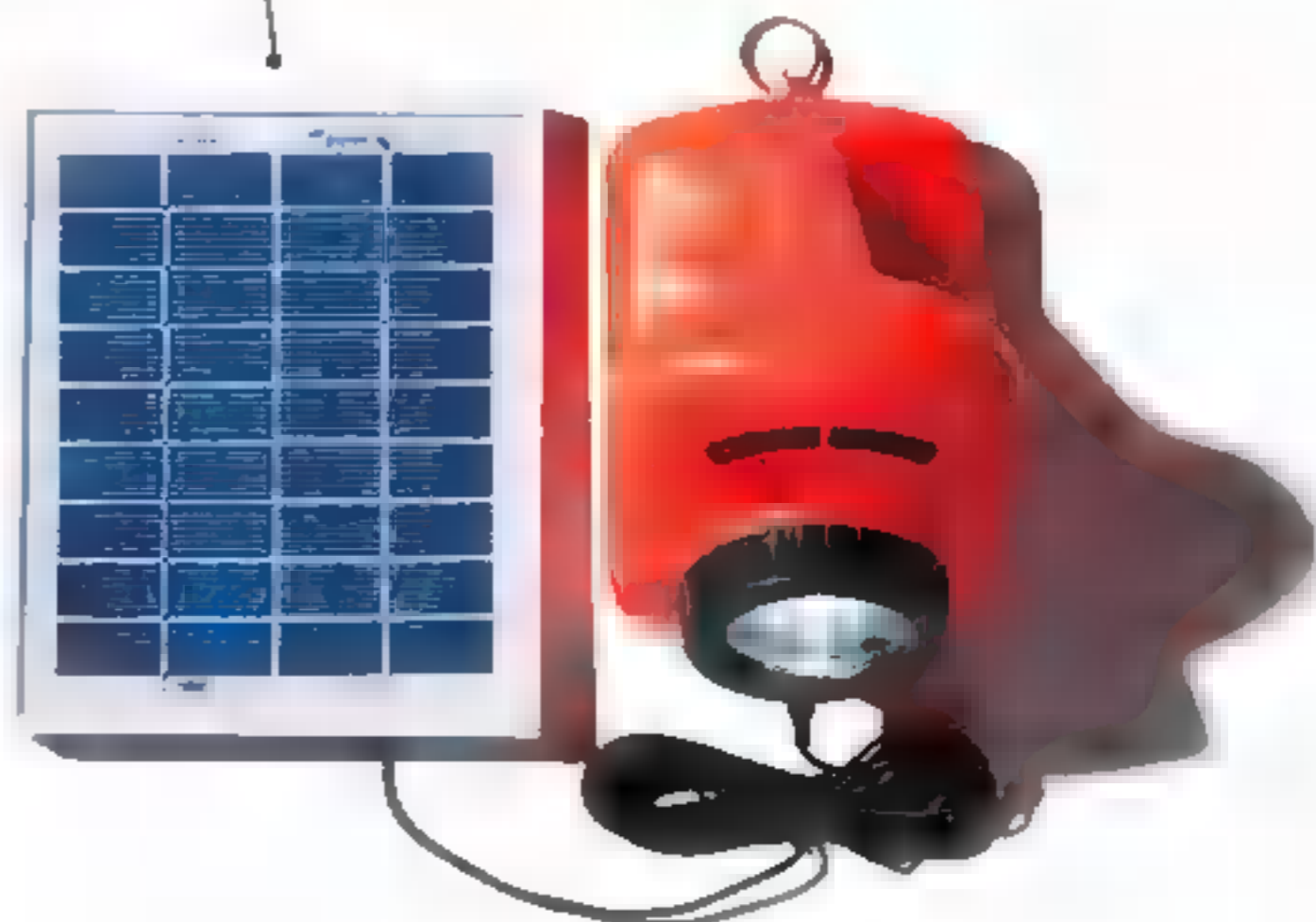
Solé Power Tiles may look like blue versions of the clay roof tiles traditionally used in sunny climates, but they're made of a durable polymer—and they're actually curved photovoltaic solar panels, creating enough energy daily to cut a typical American home's electric bill by 70 percent or more.

**Developed by** SRS Energy  
**Website** [srsenergy.com](http://srsenergy.com)  
**Launch country** U.S.

### **Solar Light**

Hazardous kerosene lamps are the only source of lighting for millions of people all over the world. The solar-powered MightyLight is safer, cleaner, and more versatile: It can be hung on a wall, placed on a tabletop, or carried. It also lasts longer—its LED technology is good for up to 30 years of use.

**Developed by** Amit Chugh, Matthew Scott  
**Website** [cosmosignite.com](http://cosmosignite.com)  
**Launch country** India



### **Electric Motorcycle**

Made mostly from recycled materials, the Evertia "refuels" at either 110-volt or 220-volt electrical sockets. It travels at up to 60 miles an hour, emits no exhaust, and goes more than 40 miles between charges. The faster Eruptive, with longer battery life, is due out in 2011.

**Developed by** Brian Wisman  
**Website** [brammo.com](http://brammo.com)  
**Launch country** U.S.





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# Truly Unique



## Time travel at the speed of a 1935 Speedster?

The 1930s brought unprecedented innovation in machine-age technology and materials. Industrial designers from the auto industry translated the principles of aerodynamics and streamlining into everyday objects like radios and toasters. It was also a decade when an unequalled variety of watch cases and movements came into being. In lieu of hands to tell time, one such complication, called a jumping mechanism, utilized numerals on a disc viewed through a window. With its striking resemblance to the dashboard gauges and radio dials of the decade, the jump hour watch was indeed "in tune" with the times!

The Stauer 1930s Dashtronic deftly blends the modern functionality of a 21-jewel automatic movement and 3-ATM water resistance with



*True to Machine Art esthetics, the sleek brushed stainless steel case is clear on the back, allowing a peek at the inner workings.*

the distinctive, retro look of a jumping display (not an actual jumping complication). The stainless steel 1 1/2" case is complemented with a black alligator-embossed leather band. The band is 9 1/2" long and will fit a 7-8 1/2" wrist.

Try the Stauer 1930s Dashtronic Watch for 30 days and if you are not receiving compliments, please return the watch for a full refund of

the purchase price. If you have an appreciation for classic design with precision accuracy, the 1930s Dashtronic Watch is built for you. This watch is a limited edition, so please act quickly. Our last two limited edition watches are totally sold out!

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## Solar Wi-Fi Streetlight

The StarSight system provides a series of pylons that use solar panels to power streetlamps, a Wi-Fi box for wireless Internet access, and if desired, closed-circuit TVs for security surveillance. The result: an integrated system of electricity and communication, plus better street lighting, which has been shown to help reduce crime.

**Developed by**  
Kolam Partnership Ltd.  
**Website**  
[starsightproject.com](http://starsightproject.com)  
**Launch countries**  
Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey



## Affordable Laptops

The One Laptop per Child project aims to educate children in remote parts of the world. Governments purchase the computers, each equipped with Wi-Fi "rabbit ears" and e-book mode, for schools. Uruguay has already distributed some 400,000 laptops, with another 90,000 on order. A tablet version is due in 2012.

**Developed by** Nicolas Negroponte, Rodrigo Arbroleda  
**Website** [laptop.org](http://laptop.org)  
**Launch country** Brazil

## Hearing-aid Recharger

The high cost of imported batteries can render hearing aids unaffordable for people in developing nations. This solar recharger accepts specially fitted hearing aids and standard rechargeable batteries, making hearing help less costly. More than 6,000 units are already in use in Africa, South and Central America, and Asia.

**Developed by**  
Godisa Technologies Trust  
**Website** none available  
**Launch country** Botswana













# Great Migrations

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES ANIMAL MIGRATION SUCH A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE FOR THE EYE AND THE MIND?

Is it the sheer abundance of wildlife in motion? Is it the steep odds to be overcome?

Is it the amazing feats of precise navigation?

The answer is all of the above. But there's another reason why the long-distance journeys of wildebeests,

sandhill cranes, monarch butterflies,

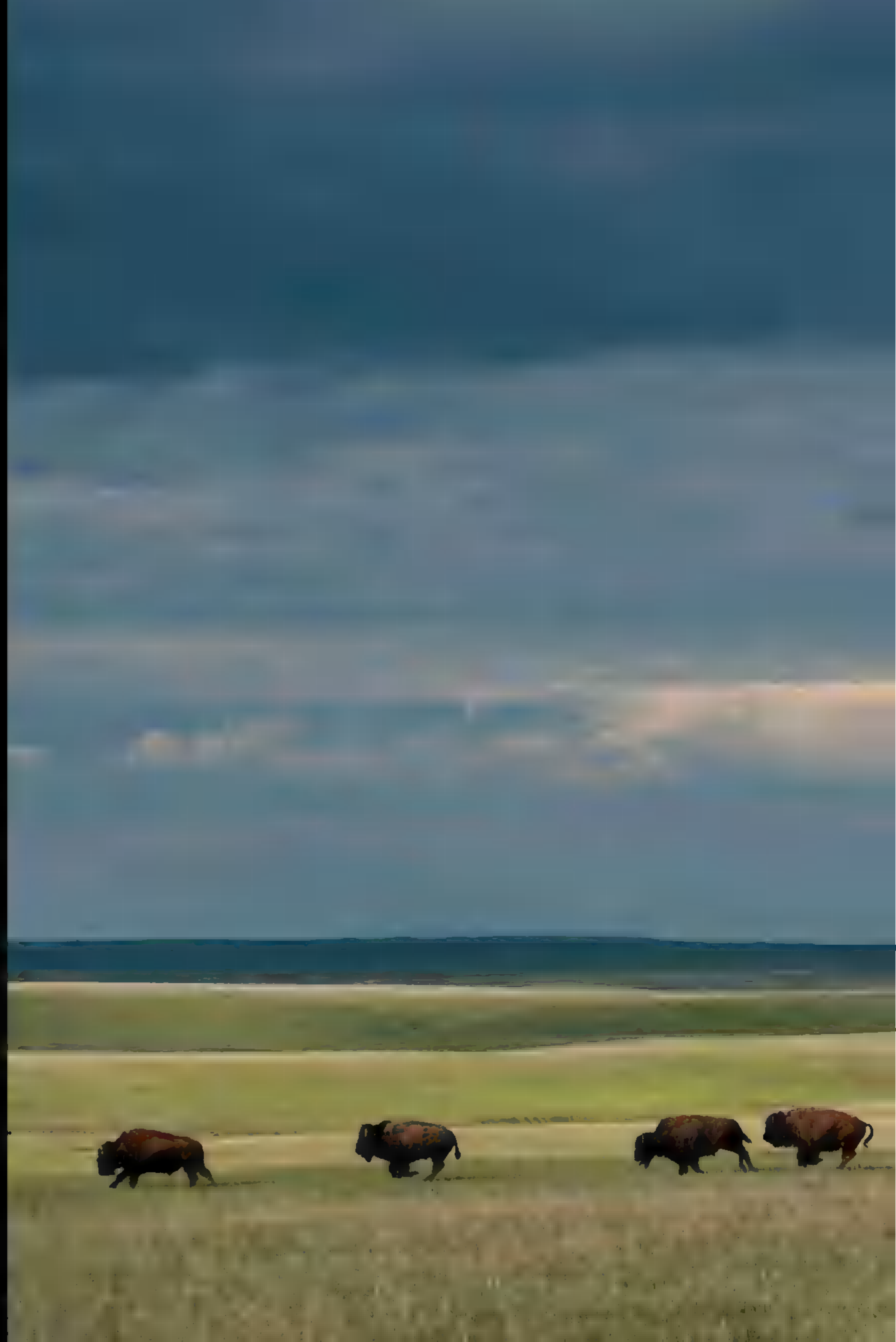
sea turtles, and so many other species inspire our

awe. One biologist has noted the "undistractibility" of

migrating animals. A nonscientist,

risking anthropomorphism, might say: Yes,

they have a sense of larger purpose.





Tens of millions of bison once rumbled across the Great Plains on a quest for grazing. In the late 1800s nearly all had been slaughtered. Today most of the half million remaining bison are in captivity, like these on the Triple U ranch in South Dakota.





Millions of monarch butterflies travel to ancestral winter roosts in Mexico's shrinking mountain fir forests. Surfing winds from southern Canada and the northern U.S., they travel thousands of miles, taking directional cues from the sun.













*By David Quammen*

*Photographs by Joel Sartore*

Animal migration is a phenomenon far grander and more patterned than animal movement. It represents collective travel with long-deferred rewards. It suggests premeditation and epic willfulness, codified as inherited instinct. A biologist named Hugh Dingle, striving to understand the essence, has identified five characteristics that apply, in varying

degrees and combinations, to all migrations. They are prolonged movements that carry animals outside familiar habitats; they tend to be linear, not zigzaggy; they involve special behaviors of preparation (such as overfeeding) and arrival; they demand special allocations of energy. And one more: Migrating animals maintain a fervid attentiveness to the greater mission, which keeps them undistracted by temptations and undeterred by challenges that would turn other animals aside.

An arctic tern on its way from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska, for instance, will ignore a nice smelly herring offered from a bird-watcher's boat in Monterey Bay. Local gulls will dive voraciously for such handouts, while the tern flies on. Why? "Animal migrants do not respond to sensory inputs from resources that would readily

elicit responses in other circumstances," is the dry, careful way Dingle describes it. In plainer words: These critters are hell-for-leather, flat-out just *gonna get there*. Another way, less scientific, would be to say that the arctic tern resists distraction because it is driven at that moment by an instinctive sense of something we humans find admirable: larger purpose.

The arctic tern senses that it can eat later. It can rest later. It can mate later. Right now its implacable focus is the journey; its undivided intent is arrival. Reaching some gravelly coastline in the Arctic, upon which other arctic terns have converged, will serve its larger purpose, as shaped by evolution: finding a place, a time, and a set of circumstances in which it can successfully hatch and rear offspring.

But the process is complex as well as various,

*Mountain goats in Montana's Glacier National Park may travel thousands of feet a day—vertically. This one descended a sheer rock wall to lick salt and other exposed minerals. Nutrients that aren't as available during the long winter may trigger the hankering.*



and different biologists define it differently, depending in part on what sorts of animals they study. Joel Berger, of the Wildlife Conservation Society and the University of Montana, who works on the American pronghorn and other large terrestrial mammals, prefers what he calls a simple, practical definition suited to his beasts: "Movements from a seasonal home area away to another home area and back again." Generally the reason for such seasonal back-and-forth movement is to seek resources that aren't available within a single area year-round. But daily vertical movements by zooplankton in the ocean—upward by night to seek food, downward by day to escape predators—can also be considered migration. So can the movement of aphids when, having depleted the young leaves on one food plant, their offspring then fly onward to a different host plant, with no one aphid ever returning to where it started.

Dingle, an evolutionary biologist who studies insects, offers a more intricate definition than Berger's, citing those five features (persistence, linearity, undistractibility, special start-and-stop behaviors, stored energy) that distinguish migration from other forms of movement. For example, aphids will become sensitive to blue light (from the sky) when it's time for takeoff on their big journey and sensitive to yellow light (reflected from tender young leaves) when it's appropriate to land. Birds will fatten themselves with heavy feeding in advance of a long migrational flight. The value of his definition, Dingle argues, is that it focuses attention on what the phenomena of the wildebeests and the sandhill cranes share with the phenomenon of the aphids and therefore helps guide researchers toward understanding how evolution by natural selection has produced them all.

RATTLESNAKE MIGRATION on the Great Plains of western Canada is a peculiar but illuminating case. A young Canadian biologist named Dennis Jørgensen, now employed by the World Wildlife Fund, studied movements of the prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) on the outskirts of Medicine Hat, Alberta, near the northern limit

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Contributing Writer David Quammen is the author of 11 books, including *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*. Nebraska-based Joel Sartore specializes in covering biodiversity. This is his 30th story for the magazine.

of its range, and found the snakes migrating ambitiously each spring and fall. The average round-trip by his animals was about 5 miles, though an earlier study detected Canadian rattlesnakes migrating as far as 33 miles. In Arizona, by contrast, rattlers don't travel nearly so far, because they don't have to. The driving logic of the Canadian migrations is related to cold winter temperatures (always difficult for reptiles) and the scarcity of really good den sites in which to survive hibernation.

"There aren't many dens that can support survival over winter on this landscape," Jørgensen told me. An ideal den must be deep underground, where the earth is warm, but accessible from the surface via burrows or natural fissures. Such refuges are few and far between. "Because of that, what you get is very large aggregations of snakes at these communal dens." Picture a serpentine tangle of a thousand snakes, piled together cozily, calm and sleek in their subterranean nook, jointly awaiting the signals of spring. When surface temperatures rise to a comfortable threshold, they emerge. For a while they bask in the sunlight, crowded like bronzed tourists on the Costa del Sol. But the rattlesnakes are hungry. What's their next imperative? To get away from one another, find food, and mate. So they migrate radially—in all possible directions away from the den—like starburst embers from a Fourth of July rocket.

Jørgensen used small radio transmitters, surgically implanted, to chart this pattern, tracking the individual routes of 28 different rattlesnakes during 2004 and 2005. More recently, on a blazing summer day, he took me back to one of the den sites, in a slumping bank above the South Saskatchewan River. The slumping had opened deep underground cracks in which roughly 60 prairie rattlers had wintered. From the riverbank we turned toward the uplands and began retracing the migration route of one of his animals, an ambitious female he had labeled E.

Not far upslope were three rounded boulders, lichen-covered, with a hole beneath. Snake E had arrived here on May 8, Jørgensen said; she rested, basked, and took off again on May 27. She ascended this steep bench (we started climbing) amid the sage and crumbling gray mud, then slithered back down the slope (we plunged after her), crossed this dirt road, crossed this moist gulch full of goldenrod and skunkbrush





**Migration routes**

- Sandhill crane
- Pronghorn
- Monarch butterfly
- Mexican free-tailed bat



WILLIAM E. MCNULTY AND LISA R. RITTER, NGM STAFF. SOURCES: ROWE SANCTUARY, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (CRANE); MICHAEL SUITOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY (PRONGHORN); MONARCH BUTTERFLY FUND AND MONARCH WATCH (BUTTERFLY); GARY MCCRACKEN, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE (BAT)





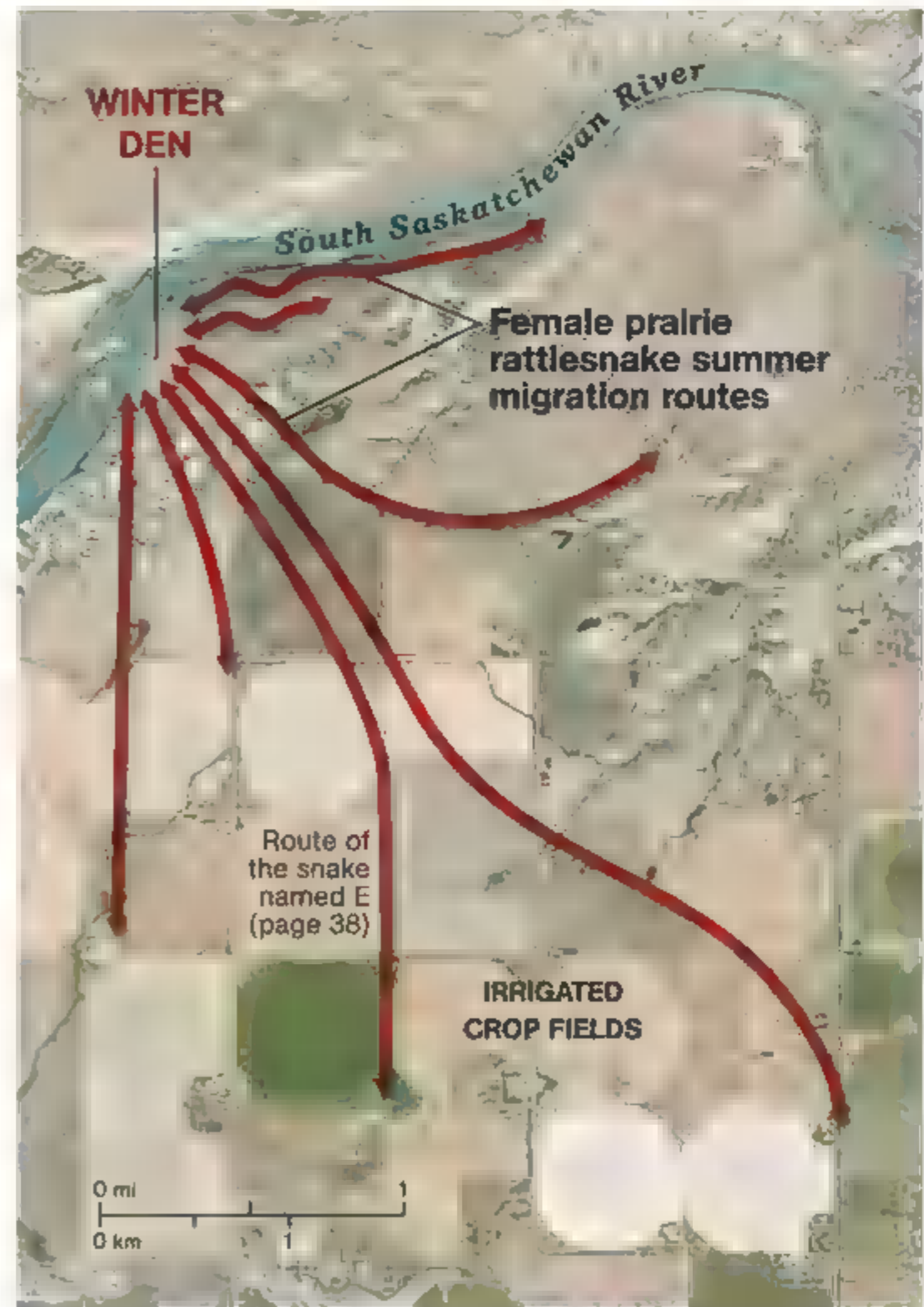
(we thrashed through), and climbed again. Back atop the bench, we ducked between strands of barbed wire into the corner of a crop field irrigated by center pivot. The crop had been alfalfa when E came through; this year, potatoes. We politely circumvented the spud field and picked up her track on the far side, between several more center-pivot circles, blooming bright yellow and rank with canola. The midday air, hot and thick, smelled like baked fish from an oven.

Having sprinted across two pivot fields in a single day, brave lady, E had then picked up the security of a fence line, where the weeds were dense and the discs of a tiller, the blades of a swather, never touched. By late June she was making

200 yards daily, still along the fence line, amid a hospitable jumble of rocks, weeds, and rodent burrows. At that point Jørgensen and I paused in the shade of a cottonwood to rest. We had covered eight weeks of rattlesnake migration in four hours and were drenched with sweat.

Hereabouts was where E had spent most of her summer that year, mating at least once and fattening herself on rodents for the homeward migration, another winter in the den, and pregnancy. It was productive habitat but also risky, Jørgensen said, what with all the agricultural machinery that could dice a snake like zucchini, all the farm-road traffic that could flatten her like an alligator belt. The changes that had





**DEADLY CROSSINGS** *Out of hibernation—and hungry—many species of snakes follow the same scent trails year after year, no matter the obstacles. A western cottonmouth (left) didn't survive the trip across a levee road in Illinois. Rattlesnakes on spring feeding forays from underground winter dens near Medicine Hat, Alberta (above), often meet a similar fate.*

come to this landscape did not favor long-distance rattlesnake migration. At that moment, as though to embody those changes within one human memory, a man named Aldo Pederzolli pulled up on his four-wheeler.


Pederzolli was the farmer on whose land we stood and who had genially welcomed Jørgensen's study. He wore a black polo shirt, rubber boots, and a cap that read "Cee-Gee Earth-moving." He was a fit-looking man of 80, with squinty brown eyes, a high voice, a sun-ripened Canadian smile. Introduced to me, hearing the reason for my visit, he said, "Oh, I just love rattlers." This wasn't irony. Got enough good snakes, he added, and you don't need to worry about

gophers. Back when he was young, Pederzolli recalled, he would see nice fat old rattlers, that big around, when he seeded a fallow field. Don't see such big ones anymore. There was a den near the river, he said wistfully, and they'd migrate six miles up to a nice patch of open prairie full of gophers. Not anymore.

Although it's only a hypothesis, Dennis Jørgensen suspects that natural selection—in this case, the death of the venturesome—may be turning his migrating rattlesnakes into a population of stay-at-homes.

**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY** entails more than a gross tally of species. Diversity of ecosystems,





*Mexican free-tailed bats spiral out of the J. Paul Getty Center  
River Bat Cave Preserve in Texas at dusk. The bats  
are hungry for pests like corn earworm moths—  
nutrition to keep milk flowing at their pups. Every  
spring millions of free-tails return to this cave.*









behaviors, and processes are important too, contributing richness and beauty, robustness and flexibility and interconnectedness to the living communities on Earth. To lose the long-distance migrations performed by some species would be a grievous diminution. Joel Berger has made this point in the journal *Conservation Biology* and elsewhere, with reference to migrating species around the world and one creature close to home: the pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), North America's only endemic species of ungulate.

Loose talk sometimes mistakes the pronghorn for an antelope, but in fact it belongs to a family all its own. Its extreme speed (fastest land mammal of the New World), more than necessary

to evade any living North American predator, probably reflects adaptation for escaping the now extinct American cheetah of the Pleistocene. Besides traveling fast, though, the pronghorn also travels far. One population migrates hundreds of miles across the Great Plains from north-central Montana into southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Another population follows a narrow, tenuous route from its summer range in Grand Teton National Park, across a divide at the headwaters of the Gros Ventre River, and down onto the plains south of Pinedale, Wyoming, in the Green River Basin. There the pronghorn mingle with thousands of others arrived from other parts of Wyoming, where they try





**FATAL TURBINES** *These 32 bats and four songbirds represent an average yearly toll for each of the 23 turbines at a Pennsylvania wind farm. Raptors like the red-tailed hawk (left, top row) are rare victims. Horse Hollow wind farm near Abilene, Texas (above), one of the world's largest, has more than 400 turbines. A drop in air pressure from the spinning blades causes many of the bat deaths.*

to distance themselves from the natural gas wellheads and drilling teams, and wait out the frozen months, feeding mainly on sagebrush blown clear of snow.

The Grand Teton pronghorn are notable for the invariance of their migration path and the severity of its constriction at three critical spots, known as Trappers Point, the Red Hills, and the Funnel. Field research by Berger and colleagues has charted that path and illuminated its jeopardies. If the pronghorn can't pass through each of the three bottlenecks during their spring migration, they can't reach their bounty of summer grazing in Grand Teton National Park; if they can't pass through again in autumn, escaping south

onto those windblown plains, they'll likely die trying to overwinter in the Jackson Hole area or get fatally stuck in the deep snows of the divide. On a bright day in November, in company with a biologist named Renee Seidler, I went for a look at the details of their dilemma.

Seidler, also employed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, works mostly on habitat issues in the booming gas fields between Pinedale and Rock Springs, an area that supports perhaps 20,000 pronghorn each winter. The northward migrants constitute just a fraction of that total but are special, she noted, because without them, one of America's great western parks, Grand Teton, would entirely lack one of America's great



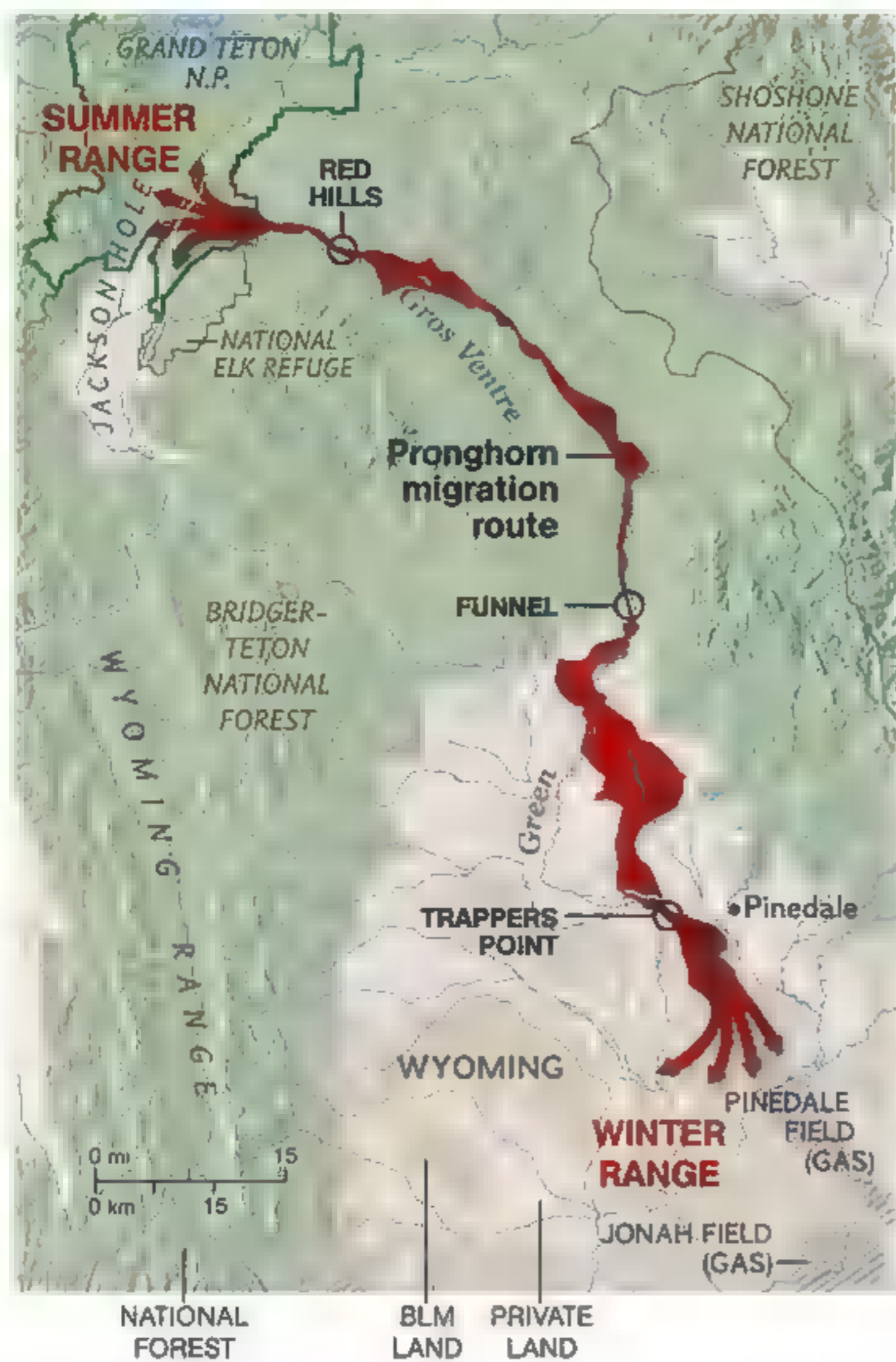




Pronghorns run for a *ground* of 50 miles an hour—but they rarely jump fences. Some ranchers plan to raise the lowest fence strands on pronghorns, like those near Medicine Hat, Alberta. *Can* horns easily slip under during their winter migration?







**CONSTRICTED PASSAGE** *Pronghorn migrating between summer and winter ranges in northwestern Wyoming negotiate steep valleys, forested mountainsides, and a gantlet of man-made intrusions. New homes restrict the corridors to no more than a few hundred yards wide in places, and gas drilling projects, such as Jonah Field (right), also impede their migration.*

western species. On a knoll at Trappers Point, we read the historical marker about fur trappers and Nez Perce and Crow peoples gathering here to trade and gazed down at the modern manifestations of growth and commerce alongside Highway 191: a sprawling little community known as Cora Junction. There were about 50 houses, trailers, and other buildings, including a Jehovah's Witnesses meeting hall, all nested within a grid of streets and lanes, fenced yards, dogs, chickens, real estate signs, old tires, boats on trailers, a weathered trampoline, and a rusting green Chrysler from the 1940s. Right about here, Seidler said, pointing to a gap of sage between our knoll and the houses, is where

most of the pronghorn seem to cross through.

We drove north on a county road about 20 miles, along willowy bottomlands of the upper Green River, tracing the migration route. Pronghorn, dependent on distance vision and speed to keep safe from predators, do not like willowy bottomlands, Seidler explained. They don't like dense forest either, so they traverse these high, open shoulders between the river and the woods, where they can see and run. Then we came to a place where forested hills rose on both sides of the river to form a soft V, leaving a corridor of open ground only about 150 yards wide. "That's the Funnel," Seidler said. It was private land, dissected by the driveways, the buck-and-rail







fences, the arched gateways of people wealthy enough to have a second home, or a third, on the headwaters of the Green. On this day, in the off-season, there was no sign of anyone around.

One more yard fence, one more house, one or two large barking dogs, could make a bad difference. As at Trappers Point so here at the Funnel; incremental human activities are accumulating toward a crisis for Grand Teton's pronghorn—threatening to choke off their passageway.

Conservation scientists such as Berger, along with some biologists and land managers within the National Park Service and other agencies, are now working to preserve migrational behaviors, not just species and habitats. The Bridger-Teton

National Forest has recognized the path of the Grand Teton pronghorn, much of which passes across national forest land, as the first federally protected migration corridor. But neither the Forest Service nor the Park Service can control what happens on private land at a bottleneck, nor on Bureau of Land Management parcels within the drilling fields south of Pinedale. And with certain other migrating species, the challenge is complicated further—by vastly greater distances traversed, more jurisdictions, more borders, more dangers along the way.

IMAGINE, FOR INSTANCE, that you're a lesser sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), setting off



*A border wall along the lower Rio Grande in Texas divides nations as well as habitats, hindering essential daily movements of animals in the area. Bobcats would normally cross the border to find mates or catch dinner—this one caught a rat. The wall also blocks the daily rounds of ocelots, another member of the cat family.*

on your spring migration from southwestern Texas. You might have to fly across a corner of New Mexico and Oklahoma, then Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota (most of which allow hunting of sandhills), then over the Canadian border into Saskatchewan, angling northwest across Alberta and British Columbia, across Yukon Territory, then the breadth of Alaska, and finally across the Bering Strait to your summer breeding grounds in northeastern Russia. This would be a trip of roughly 5,000 miles. Needing to pause somewhere and replenish yourself, you would probably stop on the Platte River in Nebraska, near the town of Kearney. If so, you'd have company. About 500,000 northbound sandhills make the same stopover every year.

There they linger for two or three weeks, maybe four. Some depart onward as others arrive, keeping the average crane count during March and April at around 300,000. By night they roost in the gently flowing shallows of the Platte, shin-deep in cool water, or else on sandbars, giving them warning against any predator that might come splashing out. Each morning they rise up in vast, graceful waves and fly to fields nearby, where they spend their days assiduously feeding on waste corn the harvesters missed and earthworms and other invertebrates. Such a stopover period is no exception to the undistractibility of migrating animals, as defined by Hugh Dingle; it's a part of the whole program, repeated by generations of cranes. During this stopover, a six-pound lesser sandhill adds about a pound and a half of fat to its weight. (The greater sandhill, another subspecies also present on the Platte, is larger.) The birds need that fat between Nebraska and Russia. Therefore, they need the stopover habitat—the shallows,

the sandbars, the security, the corn and invertebrates—to complete their arduous yearly cycle.

I stood overlooking that habitat, on a morning in late March, and watched wave after wave of cranes rise from the river. Each group climbed clumsily off the water, gained elegance as their wings caught more air, turned in formation, and flew out to their daily feeding. Meanwhile, they called to one another in their distinctive, creaky trill. There were maybe 60,000 sandhills just within the sweep of my binoculars. It was a spectacle of extraordinary abundance, a reminder of what America looked like back when John James Audubon stared up at sky-clogging flocks of passenger pigeons, when George







Catlin saw the thunderous migrations of bison.

I had watched fly-in of the cranes too, on an earlier evening, when they arrived back through the twilight and settled onto their shoals for the night. But I found fly-out more deeply affecting—because, I suppose, the birds at daybreak are headed off with a purpose, not just home to rest. They would fatten themselves for another long leg of their journey. Their travel would take them to safe and bountiful breeding grounds. Their prodigious efforts, their resistance to distraction, would yield new cohorts of sandhill cranes, extending and rejuvenating the species. I almost wrote “perpetuating the species,” but no, we can’t be sure of that. Nothing alive is perpetual.

It was the accrued wisdom and resoluteness of evolution that I was witnessing, airborne above the Platte. If we humans have accrued equal wisdom and can summon equal resoluteness, I thought, maybe we’ll allow them to continue their journeying a while longer. □



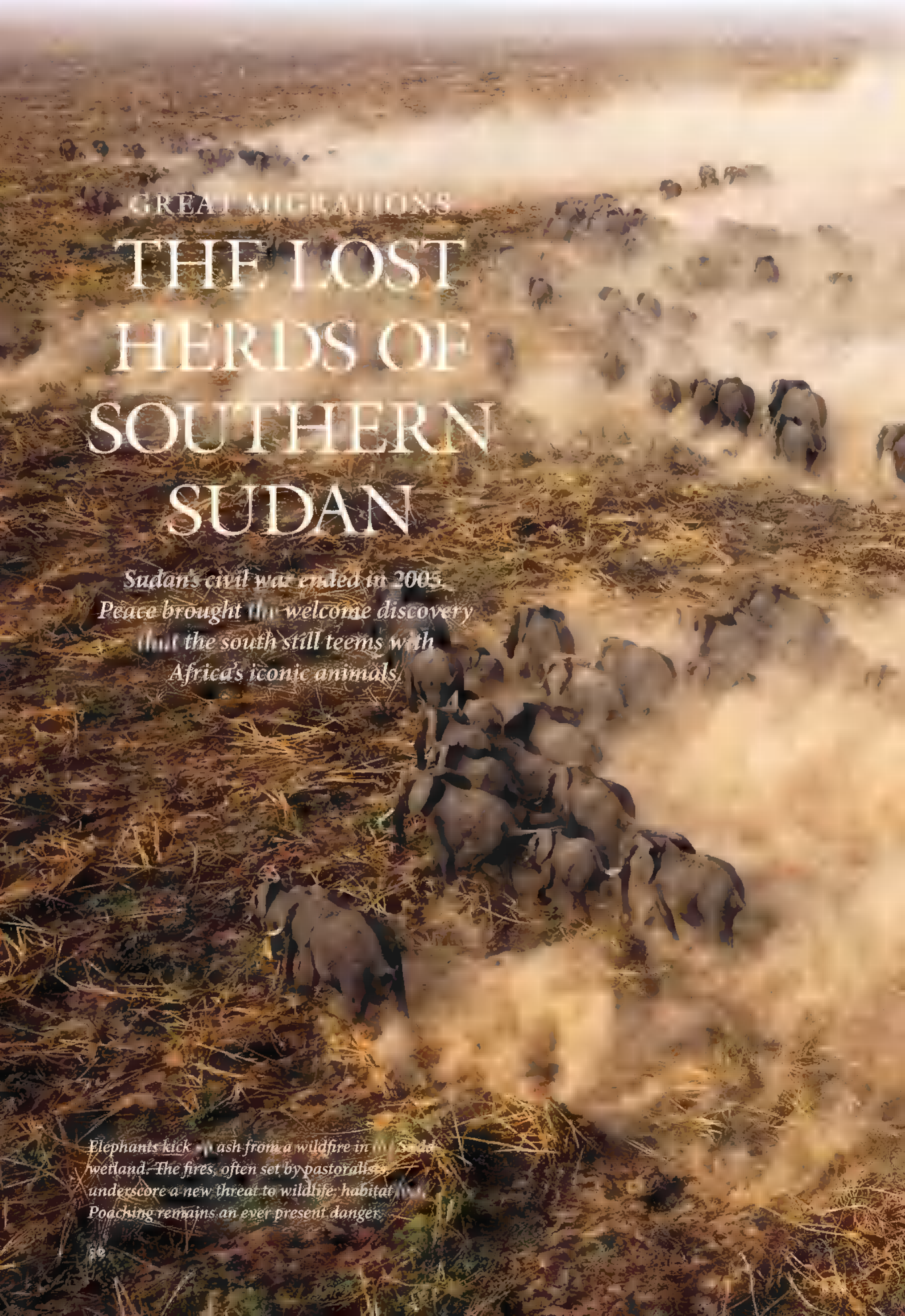
#### GREAT MIGRATIONS

This seven-part global programming event follows the arduous journeys millions of animals undertake to ensure the survival of their species. Premiering in the U.S. on the **National Geographic Channel, Sunday, November 7 at 8 p.m. ET/PT.**

Animal migrations come to life online with 3-D explorations of their epic travels at [natgeotv.com/migrations](http://natgeotv.com/migrations).







GREAT MIGRATIONS  
THE LOST  
HERDS OF  
SOUTHERN  
SUDAN

*Sudan's civil war ended in 2005.  
Peace brought the welcome discovery  
that the south still teems with  
Africa's iconic animals.*

*Elephants kick up ash from a wildfire in the Sudd wetland. The fires, often set by pastoralists, underscore a new threat to wildlife habitat here. Poaching remains an ever-present danger.*











Thousands of white-necked red hares in the shadow  
of a Wildlife Conservation Society survey plane in a  
park east of Dar es Salaam. The seasonal migration of animals  
in southern Tanzania is a spectacle. The flow of  
animals on Tanzania's Serengeti Plain.





*By Matthew Teague*

*Photographs by George Steinmetz*

**N**ot long ago in Juba, in an old colonial building with cracked walls and fitful electricity, two former military men—Lt. Gen. Fraser Tong and Maj. Gen. Philip Chol Majak—were explaining the situation.

“Organized gangs, maybe 50 men, are coming in on horseback,” Tong said. “They’re targeting elephants and the bigger ungulates. They dry the meat and keep the ivory and transport it on camelback.”

Tong is the undersecretary for wildlife in semi-autonomous southern Sudan, based in Juba, the capital. Majak is a senior staffer, a wildlife field commander whose army unit was famous for shooting down MiG jets with shoulder-fired missiles during Sudan’s latest civil war, which began in 1983. A cease-fire ended that conflict five years ago, but now Majak is fighting a new war. “We have to protect these animals,” he said.

There’s urgency in his voice. He and his fellow southern Sudanese feel a deep kinship with their wildlife. It’s deeper than people elsewhere might realize, because for generations foreign raiders harvested two goods from here: slaves and ivory. People and elephants became linked, almost synonymous, rounded up and shipped off together.

The bond strengthened during the civil war. As bombs and land mines exploded, humans who didn’t flee into surrounding countries hid in the bush. So did elephants and other migratory beasts; some fell to hunters, but many evaded gunfire by finding refuge in hard-to-reach places.

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*Matthew Teague wrote about the Uygurs of China’s Xinjiang region last December. George Steinmetz began his photographic career in Africa 30 years ago.*



*Wildlife experts struggle to place a GPS satellite collar on a tranquilized bull elephant in Boma National Park. A Wildlife Conservation Society project aims to track elephant migration to and from Ethiopia.*











A floating fishing camp drifts in the Sudd, one of Africa's largest wetlands—more than 20,000 square miles in the rainy season. The scale of this place makes it difficult for wildlife authorities to patrol and enforce hunting and fishing laws.







*As the dry season peaks and the waters in the Sudd recede, people at a Dinka fishing camp hunt anything they can find, like this Nile lechwe laid out on a hippo skin. They dry the meat on wooden racks. Authorities generally overlook subsistence hunting. Commercial poachers take advantage of the vast wilderness (map, right) to evade capture.*

They became, in the minds of the southern Sudanese, fellow displaced victims of war. The more sedentary animals—buffalo, hartebeests, giraffes—were nearly wiped out. Soldiers hunted and ate the animals, but they also had rules: They would not shoot males, and they would try to avoid hunting any species to extinction.

The war dragged on. By the time it ended, no one knew how many animals remained or would return.

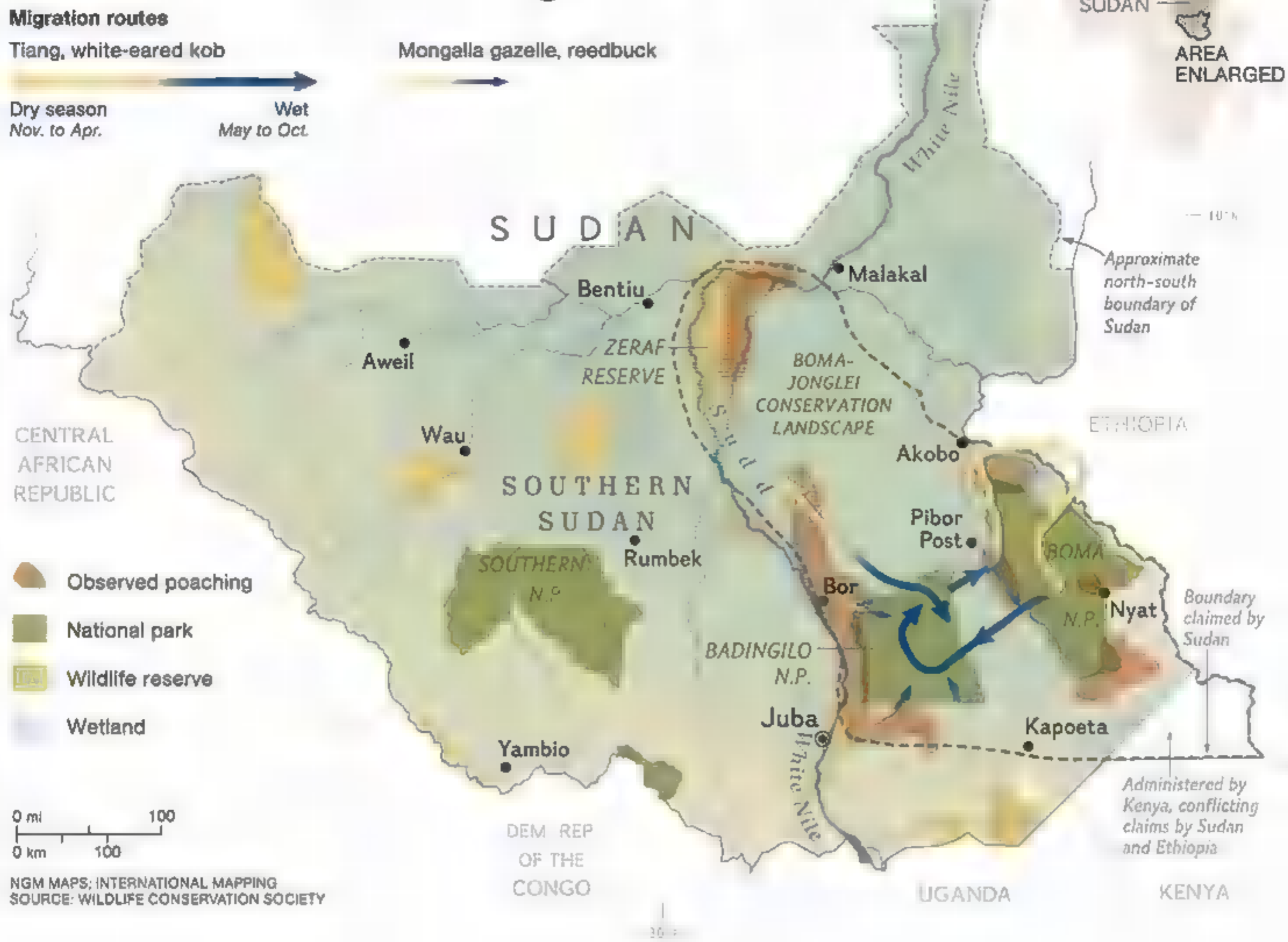
TWO YEARS LATER, three men—Paul Elkan, an American biologist who directs the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) program in southern Sudan, J. Michael Fay, also with WCS, and Malik Marjan, a southern Sudanese doctoral student at

the University of Massachusetts, Amherst—criss-crossed the landscape in a small plane, counting animals for the first time in decades. “It was stunning,” Elkan told me. “Three-quarters of a million kob. Nearly 300,000 Mongalla gazelles. More than 150,000 tiang. Six thousand elephants.” He came to a realization: “This is, hands down, one of the most important wild habitats in Africa.”

WCS’s aerial surveys have since been expanded to monitor wildlife, livestock, and human activity throughout much of southern Sudan. Elkan recently piloted his Cessna north of Juba, along the White Nile, then east into an immense territory that reached toward the sunrise. For hours we flew over untouched land. Rivers spontaneously surge here in the wet season, and wildfires rage



# Abundant Animals, High Risk



unchecked in the dry. "This is one of the largest intact savannas in Africa," he said.

He tipped down in the direction of a herd of white-eared kob, streaming north by the thousands. Some species have almost disappeared—there may be as few as seven zebras, devastated by hunting—but in the shadow of the plane, a lioness stalked gazelles. Elephant tracks, disks of mud, marched toward the horizon.

We landed on a dirt airstrip at Nyat, near the Ethiopian border, where village chiefs had gathered to hear about plans for wildlife conservation. Elkan delivered a revelation: The government of southern Sudan has banned hunting.

An elder raised his hand. "What about food?"


There's a big difference, Elkan replied, between a man who leaves his hut in the morning with a spear in his hand—as men have done here for thousands of years—and a hunter spraying

bullets from an automatic rifle. Or the commercial hunters coming down from the north to poach game. Rangers may overlook subsistence hunting outside the protected lands, which include the main wildlife migration corridors, Elkan said. But commercial hunting must stop.

WCS and the U.S. government are now working with southern Sudan's government to create a special area spanning some 77,000 square miles. It will encompass two national parks, a wildlife reserve, oil concessions, and community lands. If well managed and secure, Elkan explained, this huge region, so full of wildlife, will draw tourists, creating jobs and revenue. He urged them to spread the word.

The chiefs nodded. Southern Sudanese had fought a long, bloody war to win independence. Now the animals—their fellow survivors—deserved a peace of their own. □





# SOUTHERN SUDAN A SHAKY PEACE

*Passage to manhood is literally incised on Majiek Gai Chan's face. Because Sudan's civil wars have claimed so many men, scarification is now performed on boys in the Nuer tribe as young as 12, instead of the traditional 15 to 18.*







*▲ September 2009 Nuer tribesmen attacked the Dinka village of Duk Padiet. The death toll at least 167 included civilians as well as soldiers, adding to the lives lost in regional violence despite a 2005 treaty ending Sudan's most recent civil war. ▲ A helicopter evacuated the wounded.*











*Cattle—foundation of the Dinka economy—speckle a floodplain in a camp near a branch of the Nile during the rainy season. The animals are corralled at night to defend them against cattle raiders, then taken out to graze during the day.*











*Villagers abandoned Nyiek during the civil war. Years later, after the peace treaty, they returned to find oil drillers had moved in—so they moved to the road. Little of the revenue trickles down: The village lacks both electricity and running water.*





By Matthew Teague

Photographs by George Steinmetz

One day some years ago, before the latest civil war began in earnest, a Sudanese boy named Logocho peeked into the entry of his family's grass hut. His father sprang out and grabbed him, and then, with an older boy, pinned him in the dirt.

A strange boy, Logocho. Above him, his father's shoulders and chest rippled with welted tribal scars. A Morse code of dots and dashes crossed the father's face and forehead, signaling to any potential cattle raiders—the Dinka, the Nuer—that he, as a Murle, would defend his stock with spear, knife, fists, and teeth.

But his son showed no interest in the old ways. When other children, including his own brother, underwent an early Murle rite of passage, he ran and hid in the grass. Now his body, smooth as a calf's, trembled and arched in the dust. Nothing marked him as Murle.

More alarming, the nine-year-old boy showed no interest in cattle. Like his brother, Logocho crouched to suckle the udders of cows, but to him they meant only milk. For countless generations Murle men—and their rivals throughout southern Sudan—had lived alongside their cows. They named them, decorated them, slept beside them. Sang of them. Danced in their honor. Loved them. Men used cattle to purchase brides, who provided children, who tended more cows.

What is your purpose? Logocho's father asked.

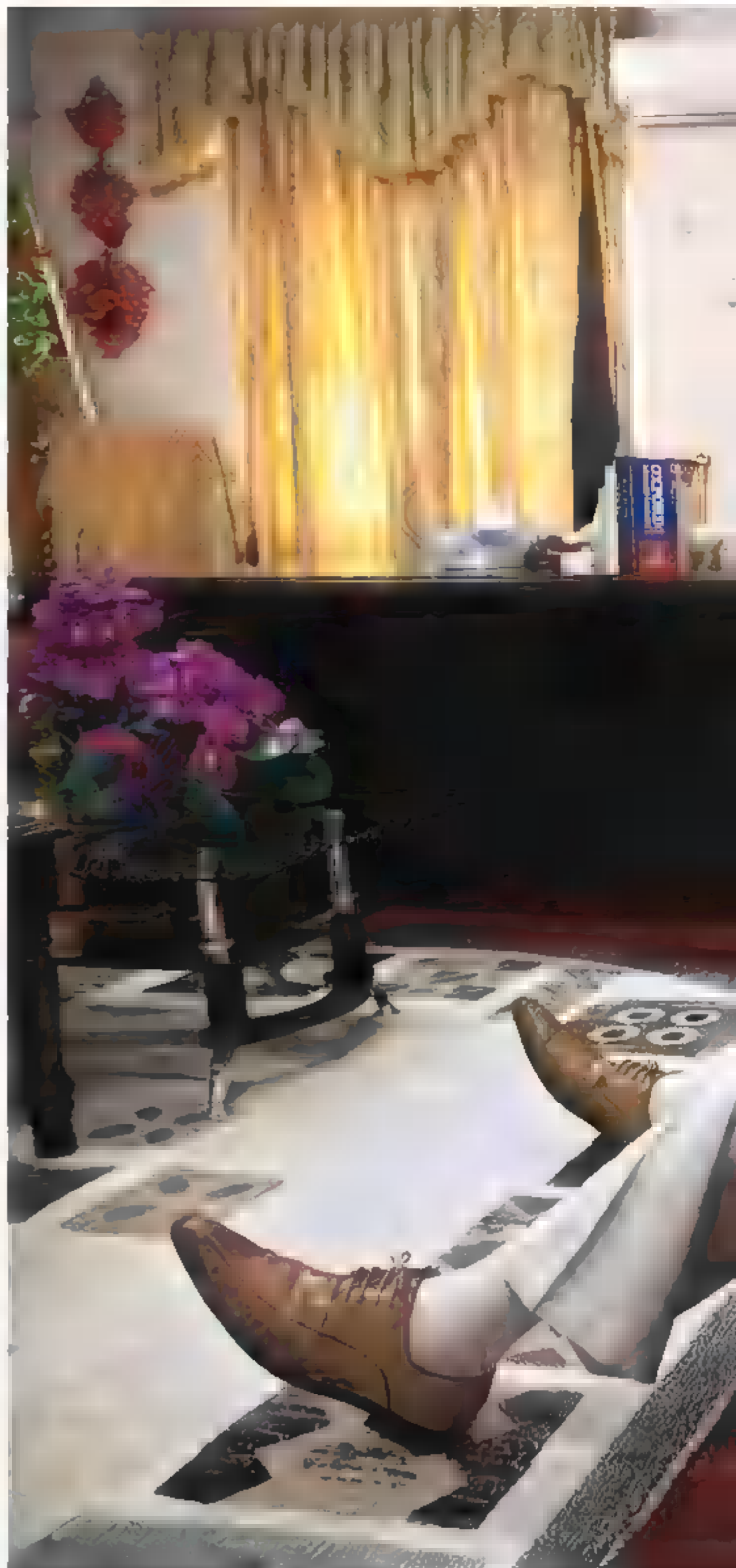
While the men and beasts migrated from water to water, Logocho preferred to stay behind with his grandmother. The old woman scratched lines in the callous earth to grow sorghum and beans and maize and even pumpkins, and in lean seasons the men came to her with hands outstretched. Logocho helped her plant the seeds,

tend the sprouts, and harvest the crops. She protected him from his father.

You are special, she would say.

She could not save him now, though. His father and the boy were holding him hard against the ground. "Naa?" Logocho cried. "Why?"

When he saw the "specialist," he knew. The man kneeled and bent over Logocho's face, then he reached for what looked like a thin metal file. He pried open the boy's jaw and wedged the blade between the two bottom middle teeth. He worked it down to the gum, and then with a wrench of his shoulder, he twisted it. Crack! An







incisor splintered, and blood filled the moaning Logocho's mouth. The specialist reset the blade and—crack!—shattered the other middle tooth.

Now you look like a Murle.

In the next few months, chaos would descend on both Logocho and his homeland. A magician in the village would pronounce his family doomed. Across southern Sudan, the fury of generations would erupt in 1983 in a war both horrific and invisible to the outside world. During the next two decades more than four million southerners would flee their villages into the hinterlands, northern cities, and

*The trademark hat worn by Salva Kiir, president of semiautonomous southern Sudan, was a gift from President George W. Bush during a summit. A former battlefield commander who has led the south since 2005, Kiir will guide his country through a referendum next year, when a vote for full independence is expected.*

neighboring countries. Two million would die.

Logocho's life—fleeing, warring, searching for purpose—would share a trajectory with southern Sudan itself. But on this day, the boy's father released him and walked away with the



*The specialist wedged the blade between Logocho's two bottom middle teeth. With a wrench of his shoulder, he twisted it. Crack! The incisors splintered. Now you look like a Murle.*

specialist. Logocho rolled onto his side so the blood could pour from his mouth into the dust.

THE ORIGIN OF TENSIONS in Sudan is so geographic, so stark, you could see it even from the surface of the moon. The broad ivory of the Sahara in Africa's north set against the green savanna and jungles of the continent's narrowing center. A great, grass-stained tusk. Populations generally fall to one side or the other of that vegetative divide. Which side, north or south, largely defines the culture—religion, music, dress, language—of the people there. Sudan straddles that line to include arid desert in its north and grasslands and tropical rain forests in its south, and the estranged cultures on either side.

In Sudan, Arabs and black Africans had met with a clash. Islamic conquerors in the seventh century discovered that many inhabitants of the land then called Nubia were already Christian. The Nubians fought them to a stalemate that lasted more than a millennium, until the Ottoman governor based in Cairo invaded, exploiting the land south of Egypt as a reservoir of ivory and humans. In 1820 he enslaved 30,000 people known as Sudan, which meant simply "blacks."

Eventually global distaste for slavery put the slave traders out of business. The Ottomans retreated in the early 1880s, and in 1899, after a brief period of independence for Sudan, the British took control, ruling its two halves as distinct regions. They couldn't garrison all of Sudan—it's a massive country, ten times as big as the United Kingdom—so they ruled from Khartoum and gave limited powers to tribal leaders in the provinces. Meanwhile, they encouraged Islam and Arabic in the north and Christianity and English in the south. Putting effort and resources into the north, they left the south to languish. The question all this raises is:

Why? Why was a single Sudan created at all?

One reason, again, is geographic. As the Nile flows north toward Egypt, it binds the disparate cultures along its banks in a fitful, sometimes hateful, relationship. It defines trade, environment, even politics, linking the affairs of north and south. When the British ruled, they needed to control the Suez Canal at the Nile's mouth, because it linked Britain to the "jewel in the crown," India. That meant controlling the Nile, so no enemy could divert it.

When the British withdrew in the mid-1950s, there's little wonder the place fell into civil war. Southern rebels battled the northern government fiercely during the 1960s, and half a million people died before the two sides struck an agreement in 1972. Yet the pact only gave each side a chance to breathe deeply and rearm for what would be a much bloodier war.

During the lull between the two civil wars, the government in Khartoum joined Egypt to embark on a breathtaking project in the south. Where the Nile spreads across southern Sudan—that great tableland—it forms the Sudd, one of Africa's largest wetlands. And the river's annual floods rejuvenate grazing lands where southern tribes have long kept their cattle. The partners decided to build a 225-mile canal to shunt the river past the Sudd, due north to supply water-hungry Egypt. They brought in an eight-story digging machine, and tribesmen stood and watched as their pastures were ripped up.

At the start of the 1983 civil war, a rebel group called the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) formed, and in one of its first conspicuous acts, it attacked the Jonglei Canal construction headquarters, halting the project.

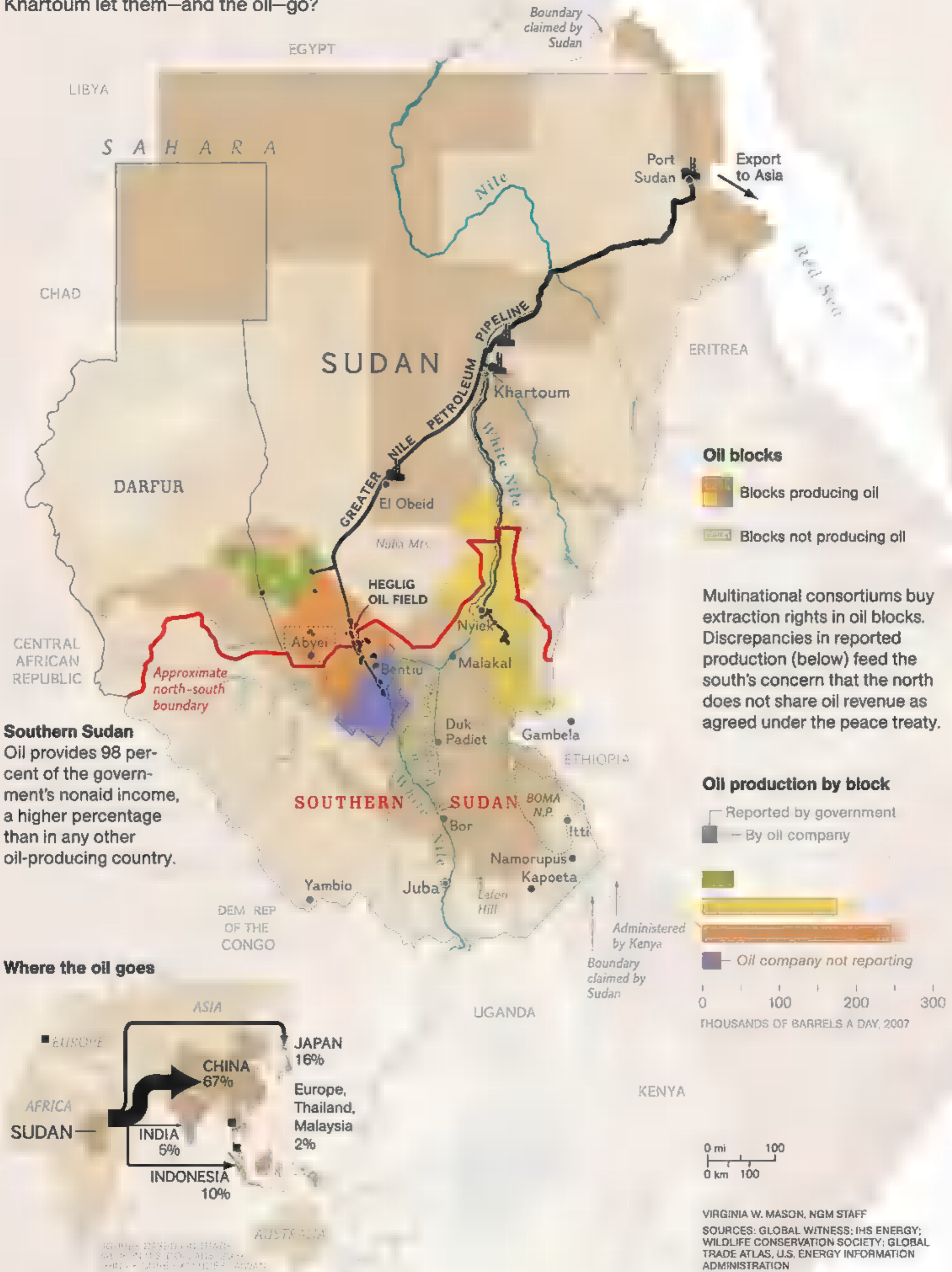
Years of bloodshed followed, ending in 2005 after extraordinary, behind-the-scenes diplomatic maneuvers brought about the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. This pact gave southern Sudan a measure of autonomy: its own constitution (based on separation of religion and state), army, and currency. Now Sudan finds itself wobbling between the possibility of lasting peace and the threat of fresh violence. In 2011, according to the pact, the people of southern Sudan will vote



# Oil Divide

Under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the south and the north, the south was to receive 50 percent of the profits from oil produced there. The treaty also gave southerners the right to hold a referendum on independence in 2011. If they vote to secede, will Khartoum let them—and the oil—go?

- Refinery  
All of Sudan's oil refineries are in the north.
- Oil fields  
The south produces 65 percent of Sudan's oil.











*Women's work in the Toposa village of Namibia includes making a grassy roof from natural materials like grass. Farming falls mainly to women, while tanning fat and herding cattle to seasonal grazing grounds falls to men.*



*An SPLA soldier came to Logocho's camp. The soldier's power—of identity in his uniform, of purpose in his weapon—burned itself into the boy's mind. He devised a plan.*

on whether to secede from the north and form a fully independent country.

The two sides smile and nod toward the pact, afraid that breaking it will invite international intervention. At the same time they wage a subterranean war of allegation and antagonism. The depths of that duplicity—and the dark prospects for peace—became clear to me midway through my time in Sudan, when half a dozen men in suits accosted me at the airport in Juba, the south's capital. They bundled me into a truck full of soldiers bristling with assault rifles and drove me to a compound in the city. There they took my phone and camera, denied me access to water or a toilet during a day and a night of interrogation. They refused to call the United States Consulate. They were, it turned out, southern Sudanese intelligence agents.

The arrest bewildered me, not just because they wouldn't level any charges but also because their behavior flew against the warmth and goodwill southern Sudanese usually show Westerners. That night, as they released me, a security officer named Gas explained: The intelligence agency had thought I was a spy. "We have been thinking for several weeks that Khartoum might recruit an American," he said. "An American would be perfect, because we allow them to move so freely through our country." I found out later that a driver who had tried to extort money from me had then reported me as a spy, but the incident underscores how deep the suspicion is between north and south.

So the question arises: Amid such animosity, why hasn't the north simply let the south break away? And again the answer is geography. Geography that is now binding them together in a new way: oil. Much of the oil is in the south, but the north, where all the refineries are, controls the distribution of profits.



LOGOCHO DISAPPOINTED HIS FATHER while still in the womb, in a way. Arriving as he did.

A couple of years earlier his mother had delivered twins, and one of them died before Logocho's birth. So according to Murle tradition, he took his dead brother's place, alongside a twin who was stronger, faster. Who loved cows. Who traveled with their father during the dry season instead of staying in the village with the women.

One day when Logocho was nine, his father summoned him. He threatened to withhold the boy's birthright—cows—so Logocho would not





have a dowry. "If I am alive, you will not get married soon, because you do not like cows."

A sister of Logocho's died of malaria. Another died of dysentery. A disease swept through the cattle—the doom foreseen by the magician, the villagers thought. Then his father died. With the cattle and her husband gone, Logocho's mother despaired. How could she feed her children? She sent Logocho to live with his uncle, who was many miles away and who marveled at the strange child thrust upon him. Who was this useless boy, unable to drive a herd of goats, much less cattle? The uncle yelled and threatened

*The newly welded framework for a shop takes to the road in Bentiu. The town sits amid the oil fields of Unity State, governed by the south since the end of the civil war. Without a pipeline of its own, the south must send its oil through a northern pipeline to a port on the Red Sea, bound mainly for China.*

and raged, and Logocho shrank from him in fear.

Then something remarkable happened. The second civil war had begun, and the SPLA had stopped the great canal-digging machine. One day an SPLA soldier came to Logocho's camp



*Logocho and five friends escaped into the wilderness and made their way to an SPLA camp near Boma. Later commanders sent word: Head to Ethiopia. On foot.*

looking for food, and the boy gave him some meat. Soldiers had swept through before, and Logocho had sensed the fear in his uncle's voice as he donated a bull to feed them. Now this soldier placed five bullets in Logocho's hand, a reward for his helpfulness. The boy gave three to his uncle, but he held back two for himself, later firing them into the sky from a borrowed gun. The soldier's power—of identity in his uniform, of purpose in his weapon—burned itself into Logocho's mind. He devised a plan and shared it with several of his friends.

When his uncle sent Logocho, who was now 12, out with the animals, he and five friends wandered off, pretending they had discovered a dead buffalo in the bush and wanted to skin it. They escaped into the wilderness, on the run and hungry until they came upon a hunting party of four SPLA soldiers. Two weeks later they made their way into an SPLA camp in the countryside near Boma, assembling with other recruits who wanted to join the rebellion. A handful of grown soldiers lived at the camp, half starved and awaiting orders themselves. For a month the group survived on wild game. Then SPLA commanders sent word: Head to Ethiopia. On foot.

ABOUT THE SAME TIME, in mid-1986, an American named Roger Winter flew to Ethiopia to meet with the SPLA's charismatic leader, John Garang. Winter, in his early 40s, had spent his life working with desperate people. In college he volunteered on the South Side of Chicago, then worked for the Salvation Army, and eventually took a position with the Carter Administration, serving as a sort of human bridge for refugees fleeing oppressive states. Now he headed the nonprofit U.S. Committee for Refugees, personally focusing on crumbling African states such as Rwanda, Ethiopia—and Sudan.



Winter liked Garang, a complicated man. He had a crackling smile and a doctorate from Iowa State, where he had studied economics during the gap between the civil wars. He read Marx and the Bible. His army used child soldiers, yet he had crafted a vision of a unified "New Sudan," with the north and south at peace. And now he wanted to know: Would America help the people of southern Sudan?

Winter felt the place drawing him toward its chaotic heart. He considered himself a human rights worker on a mission to warn the world about coming catastrophes. (He would later





warn about Rwanda's looming genocide.) What he saw in Sudan shocked him as "a very vicious war," ■ war that forced any serious observer to make a choice: walk away or get involved. Winter couldn't walk away.

AT THE SPLA OUTPOST Logocho and the other recruits formed a line flanked by the dozen or so soldiers and struck out for Ethiopia. The boys were now solely dependent on the soldiers for food and water. Others joined as they walked, and soon the group numbered more than a hundred, stretched over a mile.

*With a constant stream of hucksters and workers lured by the promise of jobs and peace, Juba winks at all comers like a gold rush town. Having grown threefold since 2005, the unruly capital of southern Sudan can barely provide basic city services for its residents.*

Early in the walk, as hunger set in, the group stopped by a river. Several soldiers lined up on its banks, their rifles raised. One blew ■ loud whistle, and several animals lifted their heads from the water. The shooters fired a volley toward the flickering ears, killing four hippos. Logocho watched,



It now greens the land in Burqila County near  
from the Pari tribe will bring their cows home  
from seasonal grazing camps eight miles away.  
Until soldiers razed it during the civil war, their  
village lay at the base of Lafon Hill (at far right)









*“You are young and need to take time here,” the soldiers told Logocho. The SPLA used the camp as a kind of recruiting pen, sorting boys according to their age and strength.*

their deaths hardly registering against the rumbling of his stomach. The group ate some of the hippo meat on the riverside and dried the rest. Then they continued north toward the border.

After several meals of hippo meat, Logocho’s stomach knotted, and his bowels loosened. He remembered his sister who had died of dysentery. It racked him hour after hour, exhausting him, wringing the water from his body. At last he lay down at the side of the path and watched the shapes of passing travelers. Some stopped, but others prodded them forward. “Leave him.”

He lay there drying out in the sun, and a thought filled his mind: I am going to die.

A young man named Jowang—a relative of his—saw him. “I will go and get water and come back,” he said. A while later someone appeared with water, and Logocho tipped it into his mouth. After some time he climbed to his feet and continued walking. He held on to hope for whatever waited in Ethiopia. Food and water. Rest.

At the end of another day, a soldier made an announcement: A great forest lay ahead, and there was no water in it. To reach water on the other side, they should walk through the night, when the temperature dipped. They entered the trees as darkness settled in, and the men put the boys in the middle of the line and watched for nodding heads.

As they walked, Logocho’s own head whipped around. The forest had made a sound. He listened, and it came again, the sound of snapping wood, of something heavy moving in the dark. Then an elephant let out a trumpet that seized the boys where they stood. A blast of gunfire followed, and instructions from a soldier: “Keep walking.” And so the night continued, with the terror of elephant charges answered by gunfire.

At daybreak they emerged from the forest, exhausted. The sweat had dried cold on their skin, and they ran forward when they saw a river

ahead. A soldier held up a warning hand. He and others fired their rifles into the water, and several crocodiles glided away. The boys bunched together and paddled through the water as soldiers continually fired around them, and with relief they heaved themselves onto the opposite shore.

Only a little farther now.

“You are still young and need to take time here,” the soldiers told Logocho when he first arrived in Ethiopia after the grueling 12-day walk. People had come from all over southern Sudan to this camp near Gambela. It was a camp for refugees, but the SPLA used it as a kind of recruiting pen, sorting boys and men according to their age, strength, and stamina.

LATER, AS ROGER WINTER toured the Ethiopian camps, he peered into boys’ faces, and his heart broke for them. They walked on thin legs, some with teeth protruding from shrunken cheeks, others with eyes that bulged, blind from hunger and sickness. He wondered whether he might ever meet any of them again as men.

Many of the boys were malnourished because the northern Sudanese government had learned to use food as a weapon. At first, villagers throughout the south clustered in open areas when they heard planes flying overhead, because pallets of food would always follow. So the government started sending planes in just afterward, dropping bombs. It had a devastating double effect: It streamlined the killing, since a few bombs could wipe out whole crowds of people, and it taught people to fear air-dropped food, so they starved out of sight.

A similar ruthlessness in Darfur would lead the International Criminal Court in The Hague to issue an arrest warrant in March 2009 for Sudan’s president, Omar al-Bashir, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In July 2010 he was also charged with genocide, and a second arrest warrant was issued.

Logocho had hoped to join the fighting force, but he couldn’t hold up an AK-47 long enough to train it on a target. So for six months, at the Bonga training camp, he learned other tactical skills, from commando crawling to secret



keeping. When John Garang himself came to address the recruits, he delivered a rousing speech, issued uniforms, and divided them into two groups. The larger boys and men could join the fight, and Logocho and the other smaller boys should attend school at the Dima refugee camp, keeping their uniforms at hand.

By the time he was 15, Logocho was finally strong enough to hold a rifle, and he went on a three-week march with other troops to the SPLA stronghold of Kapoeta, near the Uganda-Kenya border. He had looked forward to soldiering, because he had seen the power it held over his domineering uncle. Soon after he arrived at the front line, a report came in of shots fired at a nearby well. Logocho and another young man went to check it out, and they found two of their colleagues shot dead by snipers. As he helped carry one of the bodies, he knew: War was not his purpose. This was not who he was.

Over the next few years Logocho fought as a rebel and dutifully fired his weapon, but he could never bring himself to aim it at another human being. When his friends found wounded Arabs on the battlefield, they would kill them with casual disinterest. Logocho couldn't.

The northern forces had far superior equipment and weaponry. They used jets to bomb southern fuel tanks and troops, so the SPLA fought a guerrilla war in the bush. Each time Logocho's unit moved into new territory, the soldiers each dug a shallow, man-size trench. When they heard the roar of bombers overhead, they dived into the trenches, hoping for the best. The big, Soviet-made Antonov planes arrived with a distinct drone, and then came the whistling of the bombs as they fell. More than once Logocho lay facedown, breathing in the smell of turned earth as his friends died around him.

A Christian friend had shown him a Bible, and one of the stories now made sense. "Woe," Isaiah had said of the place today called Sudan. "Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia."

**BOMBERS CIRCLED OVERHEAD** like locusts. Roger Winter knew he had crossed a line. True,

other human rights workers had gone further—one former Irish priest had joined the fight outright, running weapons for the rebels—but the southern Sudanese leadership found in Winter guidance and inspiration. They wanted an American-style revolution, and they saw Winter as their Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1994 the leaders of the SPLA's political wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), held their first national convention, under a jungle canopy near the Ugandan border. Khartoum knew about the meeting and had sent planes to bomb it.

Southern leaders had long since abandoned towns and roadways—easy targets for bombs—and taken to the wilderness. Men like Garang and his second in command, Salva Kiir, had grown up in rural cattle camps and felt comfortable in the shelter of the backcountry. More than 500 people made their way to the meeting from across Sudan, and SPLA soldiers moved through the tall grass around the meeting site, combing up the trampled pathways so the bombers couldn't see them. Meeting organizers had cut steps into the hillsides, where the people sat in a naturally camouflaged amphitheater and listened to Winter talk about democracy. After that first, rugged political convention, the SPLM formed a government of its own, with Garang as chairman.

In January I sat with Salva Kiir, who became president of southern Sudan after Garang died in a 2005 helicopter crash, and he seemed uneasy in the presidential office, surrounded by the glitter of central African political power. He wore a black cowboy hat, a gift from President George W. Bush, and was sprawled awkwardly on an ornate sofa as though it cramped him. His political office also pinched him, in a figurative way. He had never expected the presidency to be thrust upon him, he said, and his vision for southern Sudan had him handing it off to someone else. "A peaceful transfer of power," he said, "that's the foundation of a good democracy." He seemed to come alive when I asked about his childhood among the cows, sleeping beside them, suckling them. "Delicious," he said,





*Members of southern Sudan's security service bury two colleagues after the brutal intertribal assault on Duk Padiet. Last year conflicts in the south took 2,500 lives and displaced 350,000. Southerners accused the Khartoum government of stirring up violence to destabilize the region.*

smiling. Does he still keep cows? "A man never tells how many children or cows he has," he said. "Sometimes you say only one. That one may be ten or a hundred or a thousand." So then how many does he have? He laughed. "One."

IN THE YEARS AFTER THE MEETING in the jungle, Winter continued his preoccupation with southern Sudan, struggling to explain Sudan and America to each other. In southern Sudan people knew little about Western politics; they often called him Senator Roger when he showed up in the bush. Americans knew even less about Sudan. By 2001 Winter had taken a job with the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the war in southern Sudan consumed him.

On the morning of September 11, he was holding a meeting in Washington, D.C., about a possible cease-fire in the Nuba Mountains. Midway





through the meeting, word of that day's terrorist attacks came, with orders to evacuate federal offices. I'm not going anywhere, Winter remembers thinking. We're so close. He had planned to drive to the Sudanese Embassy, but traffic gridlock made that impossible, so he spent the day negotiating on the telephone.

Back in Sudan, something bit him during an around-the-clock push to reach an agreement between the north and the south; he didn't realize it was a snakebite until the next day, when a colleague saw that his purple foot had fang marks.

When the civil war was in its early years,

*Logocho fought as a rebel and dutifully fired his weapon, but he could never bring himself to aim it at another human being. War was not his purpose. This was not who he was.*

the only Americans paying close attention to southern Sudan's troubles were some members of Christian churches. They saw the war as a religious one between Islamic aggressors and non-Muslim victims. September 11 strengthened that view. Church leaders and their congregations put pressure on policymakers in Washington, D.C., to do something in southern Sudan.

Winter knew that the Sudanese civil war was not simply a battle between Islam and Christianity—southern Sudan is in many places a patchwork of animist tribes who know nothing of Christianity. He knew ethnic loyalty meant more than religion. He knew the economics involved, knew the north had suppressed development in the south. He wanted to get more Americans, especially those in Washington, D.C., thinking about Sudan, and he enlisted the help of journalists and legislators.

Where Arabs and black Africans historically had fought over land for grazing, they now fought over oil—as much as three billion barrels, mostly in a disputed borderland between north and south, where tribes and clans had long clashed.

The conflict was complicated, but Winter never discounted the power of religion to be a force for good. He had seen it for himself in 2002.

In a southern Sudanese village called Itti, near the Ethiopian border, he had found a Presbyterian church where more than 300 people crowded under the grass roof each Sunday. They played drums made of animal skins, and Winter was touched by their worship. One Sunday, the young pastor, a man named Simon whom Winter had met briefly before, stepped to the front of the room and spoke about the “peace of God, which passes all understanding,” quoting the apostle Paul. Peace even with the Arabs.

Winter thought: This is wisdom personified.

After the service he approached the church's









*Arms raised like cattle horns, Jacob Mawich celebrates his victory in the election for leader of a Nuer youth association in Juba. Constituents rejected formal paper ballots and voted in the traditional way by lining up behind their man.*



*Simon looked misplaced in his eyeglasses and smooth-soled, cap-toe shoes. But the villagers waved to him. "Big man!" they called. "I am not the big man," he said, laughing.*

group of elders and asked what he could do to help the congregation. They conferred, while Winter and Simon discussed the possibilities. The elders could ask for anything. A new building. Musical instruments. Food. Medicine. Cash.

Our pastor, Simon, is a smart man, they said. But he has never had a proper education as a pastor. Could you help him?

Winter was stunned. These people hardly had enough to eat, and they chose schooling? Over the next few years he personally paid for Simon to attend a theology school in Kampala, Uganda, taking the young man's word that he would return to the relative bleakness of tiny Itti.

And Winter redoubled his efforts for peace.

READING HIS FRIEND'S BIBLE in an SPLA barracks one night in 1991, Logocho had a realization. Yes, he thought. This is my purpose. He decided that he would become a pastor.

Soon after, a Protestant minister baptized him and asked if he'd like to choose a new name, a new identity. "Yes," Logocho said. "Simon."

He put down his rifle, left the SPLA, and attended a school for refugees in Kenya, where he continued learning English. Then he went to Bible school, and eventually he took a post at the far-flung church in Itti, where a balding American named Roger walked in one Sunday and sat down in the dirt among the other congregants. The young pastor delivered a simple sermon that inspired one of the principal architects of what may become Africa's newest democracy.

Winter's years of diplomatic wrangling culminated with the 2005 pact signed by the north and the south. The chaos and carnage of Sudan's history make it impossible to predict whether the treaty will hold through the 2011 vote on independence. But Winter—along with his U.S. colleagues and negotiators from Kenya, Britain,



Norway, and elsewhere—brokered something in Sudan that once seemed impossible: peace. A peace that has held for five years.

SIMON WALKED WITH ME recently in Itti. He enjoys no social standing, since he has no cows, and he looked misplaced in his eyeglasses and smooth-soled, cap-toe shoes. For the past three years he has earned income during the week doing community outreach for the Wildlife Conservation Society—a long way, in a sense, from the cattle camps and hunting parties of his peers. But the villagers waved to him, and they promised to





see him Sunday morning. “Big man!” they called.

“I am not the big man,” he said, laughing.

Simon could have stayed in Uganda or gone to Kenya. Like the famous Lost Boys, he could have emigrated to America, where he could have made a better living. Why not go to the U.S.? He smiled and, as is his habit, made a small clicking sound by pulling his tongue back from the gap in his grin.

“No,” he said.

As a child, Logocho had left behind the pastoral tradition. He had come of age in the chaos and pain of war, and then, when he became

*The connection between a Dinka man and his cow is profound; it is part of his personal identity. The matter of a southern Sudanese national identity is on the table as leaders prepare for next year’s referendum on independence, when they hope to persuade Dinka, Nuer, and other feuding tribes to unify.*

Simon, he had used his faith to reach an influential American who offered him and his country support. His history was the history of southern Sudan, and his purpose its people.

“No,” he said. “This is my place.” □



# 3 Degrees of Japan's Seas

The waters off the coast vary  
from frigid to temperate to tropical.

The marine life is  
uniformly extraordinary.

Hunting for morsels of plankton, a school of spadefish hovers near the surface off Japan's subtropical Bonin Islands. The turquoise color permeates the water late in the afternoon, as the red rays of the setting sun spread out and grow weak.









Seventy miles southwest of Tokyo, a moray eel slithers through the branches of a soft coral in the cool waters of Suruga Bay. Deep and narrow, the bay plunges more than 8,000 feet.









The photographer's assistant hangs on to part of an ice canopy that can reach a thickness of 25 feet in winter, blanketing Shiretoko Peninsula waters. A decade ago these seas were icebound an average of 90 days a year. Today the span is about 65 days.







Sunlight streams between cracks in the ice. Thicker chunks glow emerald green, bejeweled by algae. The characters of this frosty realm begin to appear: a translucent, blue swimming snail, a pink fish with a tail like a geisha's fan, a bright orange lumpsucker that looks as if it leaped out of a Pokémon cartoon.

This is the underwater world that awaits photographer Brian Skerry, who is lumbering across the beach near a fishing town called Rausu, in Japan's northeastern corner. Wearing a hooded dry suit and carrying an air tank, hoses, regulator, and 32 pounds of weights, he pulls on his fins and slowly submerges his face to get used to the 29°F water. His lips go numb. And then, camera in hand, Skerry dives between the ice floes into the waters of the Sea of Okhotsk, bordering the Shiretoko Peninsula.

Most people think of Japan as a compact collection of large islands, but a map of the country shows otherwise. Japan stretches over 1,500 miles and includes more than 5,000 islands. As land mingles with sea over these vast distances, it embraces at least three distinct ecosystems. In the frigid north, sea-eagles, with their seven-foot wingspans, and king crabs frequent the ice-covered seas off the remote Shiretoko Peninsula. In the mild central waters of the Izu Peninsula and Toyama Bay, a few hours' drive from the skyscrapers of Tokyo, firefly squid swarm, and soft coral forests grow. In the balmy south, delicate butterflyfish and huge sand tiger sharks share coral reefs in the Bonin Islands, a collection of 30 or more islands about 500 miles south of Tokyo.

Ocean currents are key to the marine diversity, bathing Japan's shores in temperatures of water that range from around 30°F to 85°F. The currents also bring the country a couple of world records. The powerful Kuroshio shoots warm water northward, allowing coral reefs to thrive where they would not normally be found. The East Sakhalin Current draws cold water down toward Japan, helping make the Shiretoko Peninsula the southernmost spot with winter sea ice.

These currents control more than water temperature. They transport distant marine life as well. Inlets pockmark Japan's volcanic shoreline, explains Florida Institute of Technology professor Robert van Woesik. On islands surrounded by coral reefs, the lagoons "act like baseball mitts catching coral and fish larvae."

As in so much of the world's oceans, these ecosystems are at risk. Japan is filling in lagoons to create more land to build upon. When this happens, fish, coral, and crab larvae glide past without settling down.

For now, the array of ocean life is thriving, as Brian Skerry's photographs show. When he surfaces from the frigid waters, he's grateful for the teahouse on the beach. Stripped of his gear, he warms up by sipping miso soup as he sits on the floor watching the snow fall. All the while, the orange lumpsucker swims, and the ice glows green undersea. —Juli Berwald

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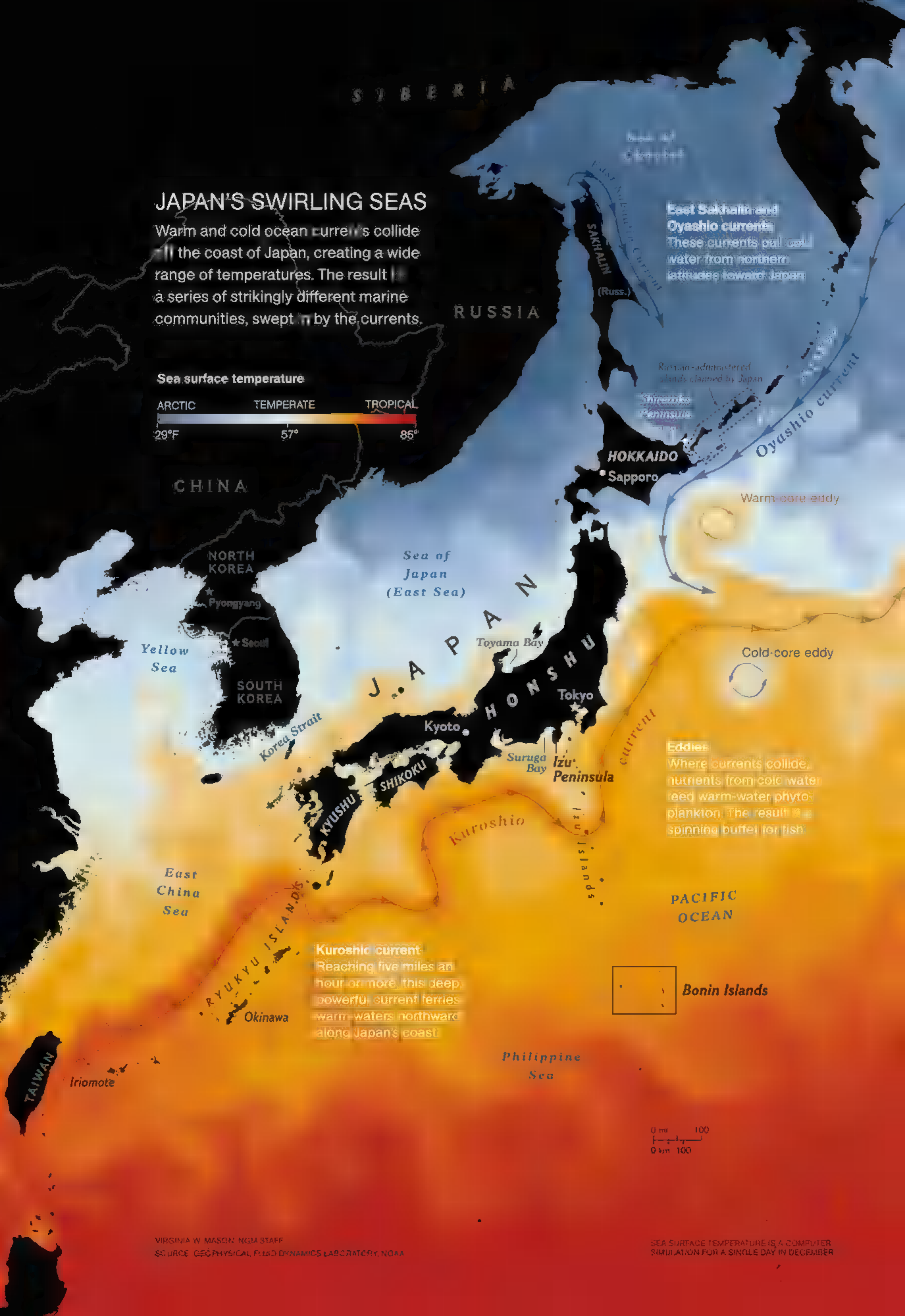
*A contributor to the magazine since 1998, photojournalist and veteran diver Brian Skerry is the author of Face to Face With Manatees.*



# JAPAN'S SWIRLING SEAS

Warm and cold ocean currents collide off the coast of Japan, creating a wide range of temperatures. The result is a series of strikingly different marine communities, swept in by the currents.

## Sea surface temperature



**East Sakhalin and Oyashio currents**  
These currents pull cold water from northern latitudes toward Japan.

Russian-administered islands claimed by Japan  
Shiretoko Peninsula

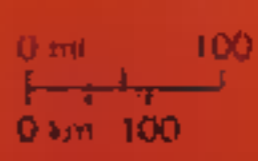
Warm-core eddy

Cold-core eddy

**Eddies**  
Where currents collide, nutrients from cold water feed warm-water phytoplankton. The result is a spinning buffet for fish.

**Kuroshio current**  
Reaching five miles an hour or more, this deep, powerful current ferries warm waters northward along Japan's coast.

Bonin Islands



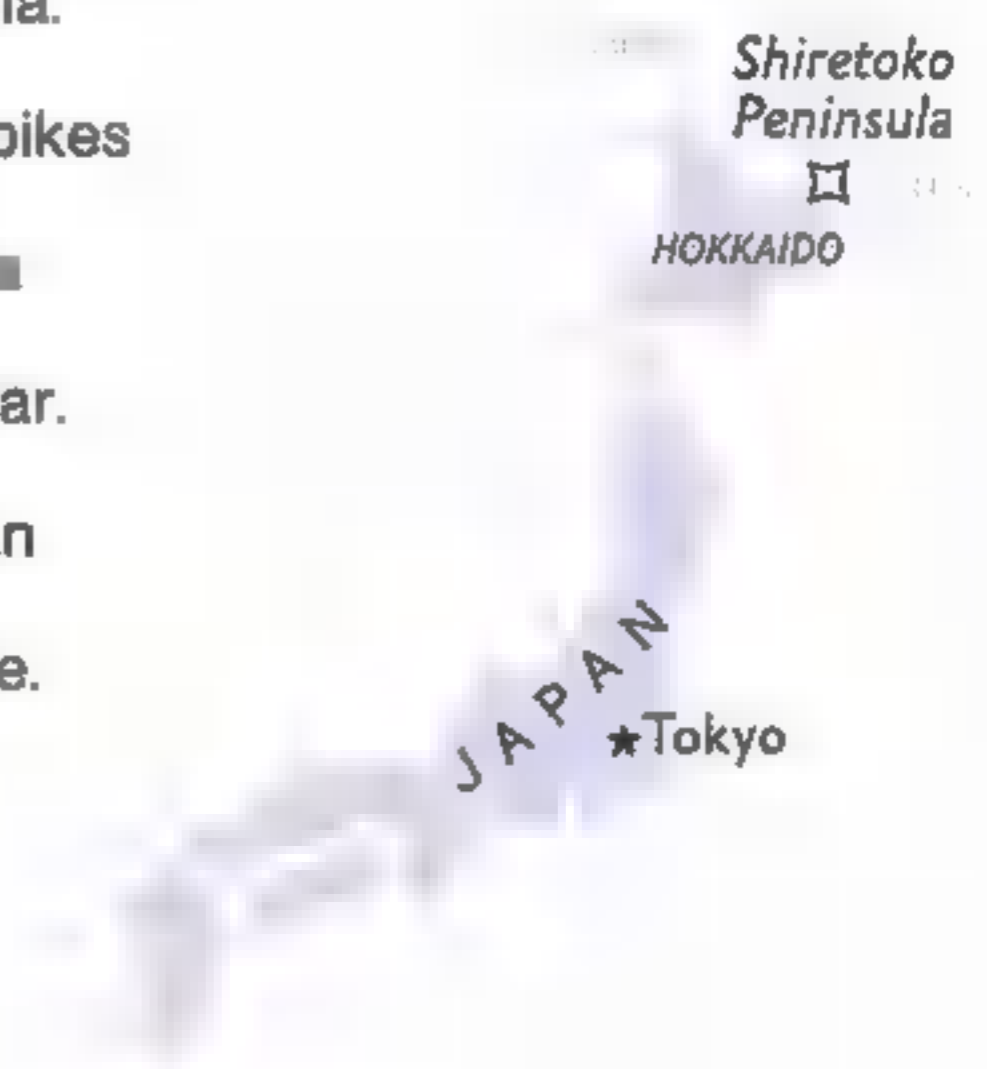








The keen eyes of a Steller's sea-eagle (left) seek the flash of herring between ice floes off the Shiretoko Peninsula. Underneath the ice, spikes meet spikes as an Alaska king crab the size of ■ nickel crawls over ■ knobby sea star. After a dozen years, the crustacean will grow to the size of a tractor tire.



## North Central South





In the shallow waters off Hokkaido, a barbed poacher crawls across glistening volcanic sand on spiny pectoral fins. Only the females of this cold-water fish sport a distinctive Pinocchio-like snout.

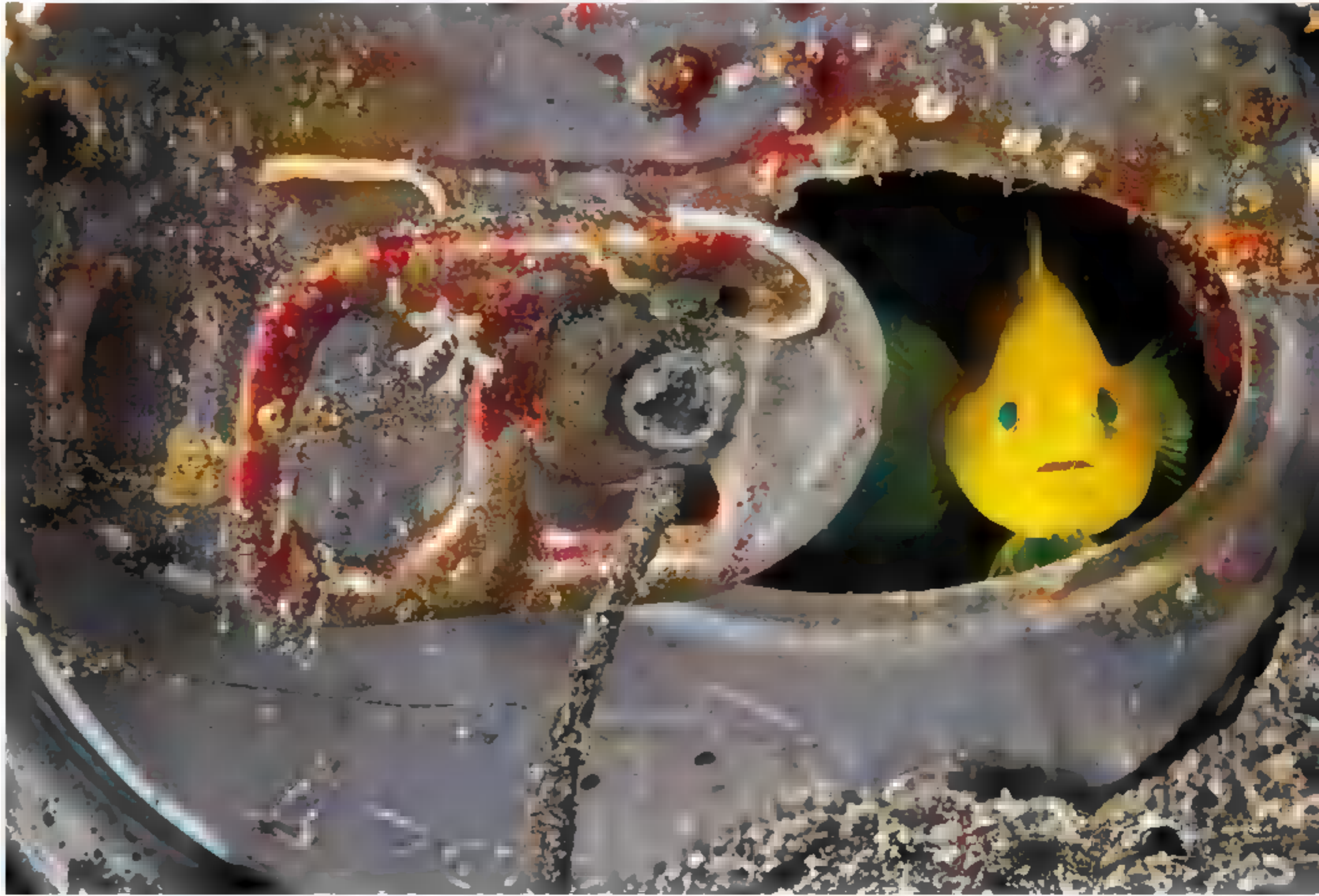












A volcanic beach off Toyama Bay glows electric blue (left). The light comes from female firefly squid, which spawn in spring, then die and wash ashore, their tentacles lit like millions of aquamarine LEDs. Off the Izu Peninsula, ■ yellow goby peers through the window of its corroded soda-can home, evidence of the 127 million people just above the water's surface.



North Central South





What looks like a tangle of gnarled cables is in fact a forest of deep-water whip coral in Suruga Bay. Each strand is studded with feeding polyps that reach tiny tentacles into the currents to grab floating food.





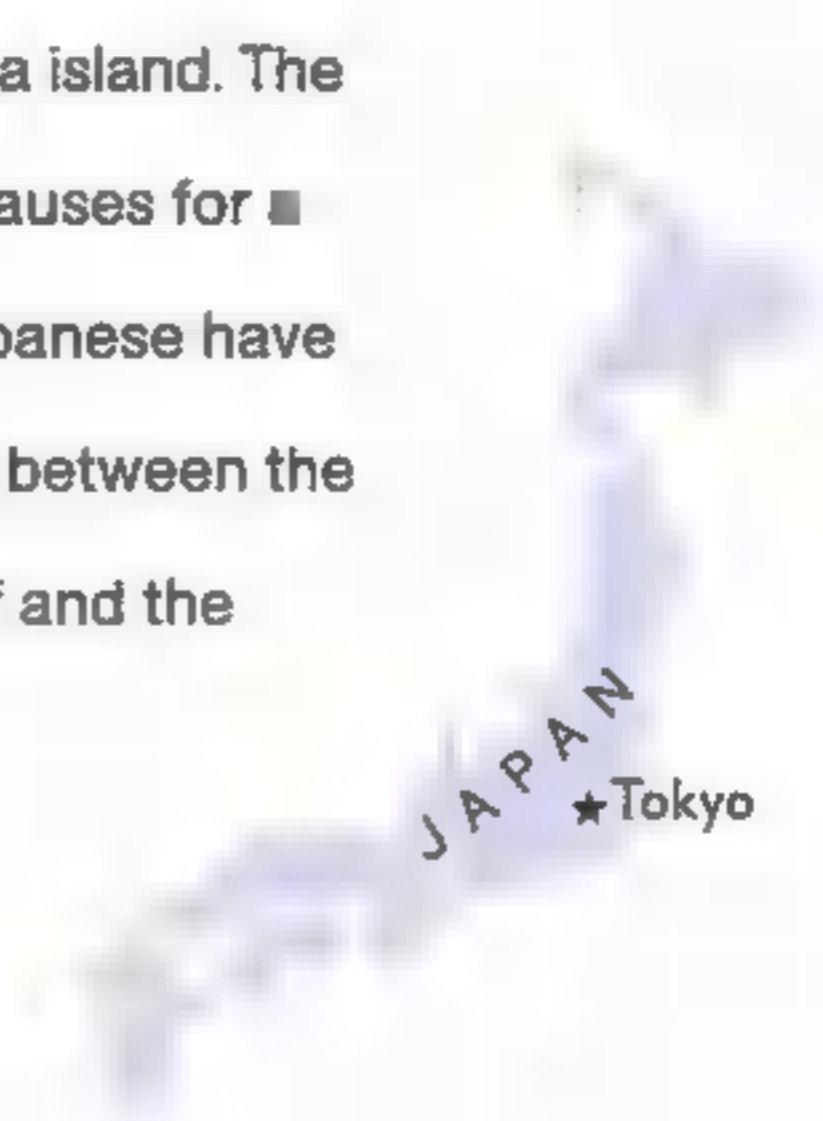








Purple tunicates (left) filter the water for food. They have no scientific name and live behind a single rock in a cave off Chichi-shima island. The wrought iron butterflyfish (above) pauses for a wrasse fish to clean its skin. The Japanese have long been intrigued by the similarity between the butterflyfish's black-and-white motif and the patterns on a samurai kimono.



Chichi-shima  
Bonin Islands

NorthCentral South









A sand tiger shark off the Bonin Islands will soon give birth. During the nine-month pregnancy, the largest two pups will have eaten their siblings for sustenance, a kind of cannibalism unique to this species.



# UNBURYS THE AZTEC

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THE EXCAVATION OF A SACRED  
PYRAMID IS TURNING UP CLUES  
TO THE EMPIRE'S BLOODY RITUALS—  
BUT SO FAR, NO SIGN OF ITS  
MOST FEARED EMPEROR.

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BY ROBERT DRAPER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
KENNETH GARRETT AND  
JESÚS LÓPEZ

Archaeologists used laser-driven pulses of light to produce a green 3-D image of a fractured stone depicting an Aztec earth goddess. In a shaft near her head lay six offerings of artifacts (see art. page 122).

GUIDO GALVANI AND MARÍA SÁNCHEZ VEGA, COURTESY TEMPLO MAYOR PROJECT, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY, MEXICO

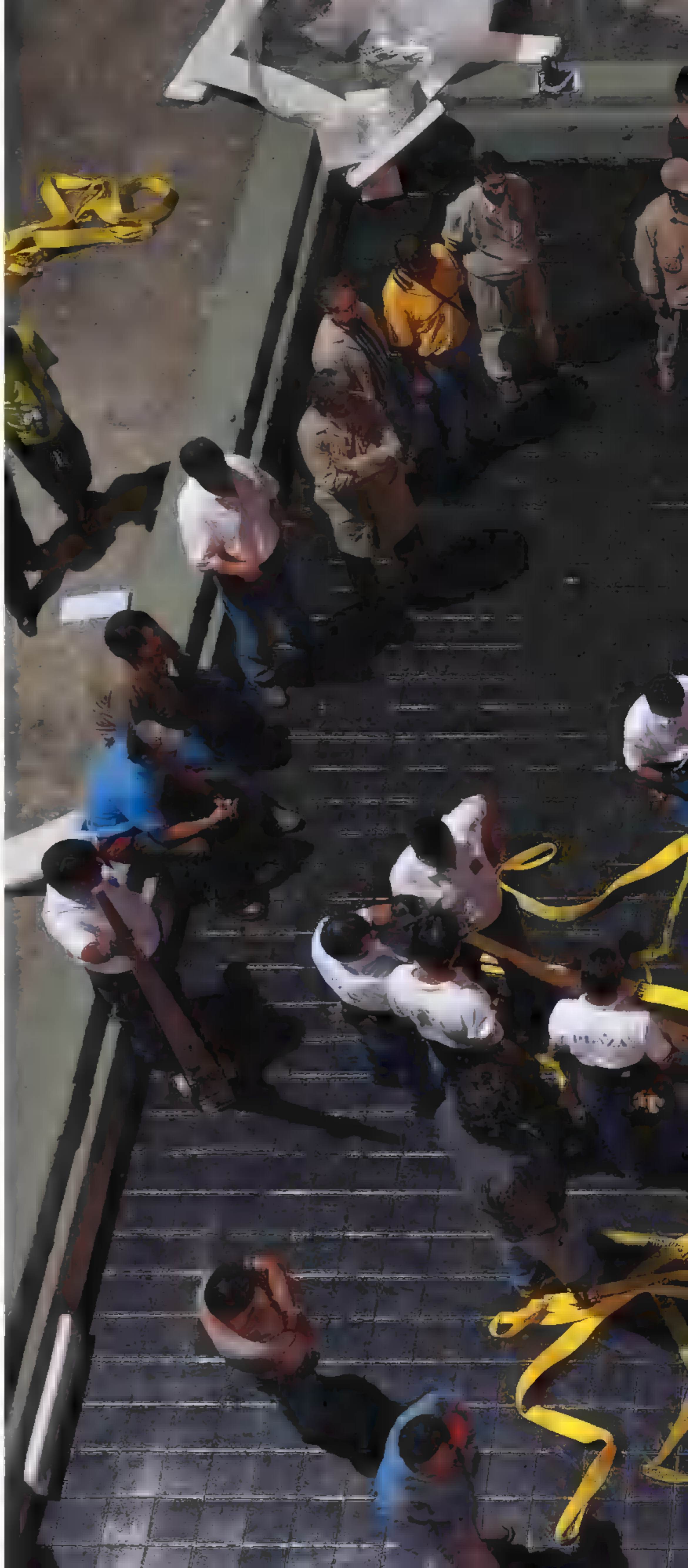






In May ■ team of 30 technicians and two cranes took 15 hours to move the 12-ton stone of the earth goddess Tlaltecuhтли, broken into four pieces, about 500 feet from the excavation site to a new home in Mexico City's Templo Mayor Museum. A two-and-a-half-year restoration process has revealed traces of the andesite stone's original ocher, red, blue, white, and black pigments—but not the missing center of the monolith.

KENNETH GARRETT











## **ON THE EDGE OF MEXICO CITY'S FAMED ZÓCALO PLAZA,**

next to the ruins of the Aztec sacred pyramid known as the Templo Mayor, the remains of an animal—perhaps a dog or a wolf—were discovered. It had been dead for 500 years and lay in a stone-lined shaft eight feet deep. It is likely the animal had no name, nor an owner. Yet the anonymous canine had evidently meant something to someone. It wore a collar made of jade beads and turquoise plugs in its ears. From its ankles dangled bracelets with little bells of pure gold.

The archaeological team, led by Leonardo López Luján, unearthed the so-called Aristo-Canine in the summer of 2008, two years into an excavation that began when foundation work for a new building revealed an astonishing object. It was a 12-ton rectangular monolith made of pinkish andesite stone, broken into four large pieces, bearing the mesmerizingly horrific likeness of the earth goddess Tlaltecuhltli (pronounced tlal-TEK-tli)—the symbol of the Aztec life and death cycle, squatting to give birth while drinking her own blood, devouring her own creation. It was the third flat Aztec monolith to be discovered by accident in the vicinity of the Templo Mayor, along with a 24-ton black basalt Sun Stone (excavated in 1790) and an 8-ton Disk of Coyolxauhqui, the moon goddess (1978).

After years of painstaking excavation, López

Luján and his crew have discovered, in a deep pit beside the monolith, some of the most exotic Aztec offerings ever found. Removing a stucco patch in the plaza floor, the excavators came upon 21 white flint sacrificial knives painted red: the teeth and gums of the Aztec earth monster, her mouth open wide to receive the dead. They dug deeper and found a bundle wrapped in agave leaves. It contained an assortment of sacrificial perforators made of jaguar bone, used by Aztec priests to spill their own blood as a gift to the gods. Alongside the perforators were bars of copal—priestly incense, another spiritual purifier. The perforators and incense were carefully arranged inside the bundle, along with feathers and jade beads.

To López Luján's surprise, several feet underneath this bundle lay a second offering, this one





Its skeleton reassembled for museum display, the animal known as the Aristo-Canine wore a seashell belt and gold bells (opposite) on its hind legs.



An aerial view over Mexico City shows remnants of ancient Tenochtitlan visible around the green awnings of the Templo Mayor excavation site (opposite, lower left). Archaeologists, including Ángel González (below), have already recovered tens of thousands of artifacts that will help scholars decode the Aztec view of the universe. The search for a royal tomb has moved to a new tunnel just west of the site.



in a stone box. It held the skeletons of two golden eagles—symbols of the sun—with their bodies facing westward. Surrounding the eagles were 27 sacrificial knives, 24 of them dressed up in fur and other costumes, like raggedy puppets, to represent deities associated with the setting sun. By last January, the team had uncovered a total of six offerings in the shaft—the last one 24 feet below street level and containing a ceramic jar filled with 310 greenstone beads, earplugs, and figurines. The placement of every excavated object appeared to be governed by an exquisite logic, re-creating the Aztec Empire's entire cosmology.

It was at the very bottom of the second offering box that López Luján encountered the elaborately ornamented animal. Covering it were seashells and the remains of clams, crabs, and snails—creatures brought to this spot from the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In Aztec cosmology, López Luján knew, this tableau suggested the first level of the underworld, with the canine serving to guide its master's soul across a dangerous river.

But which human soul? Since the Spaniard Hernán Cortés's conquest of Mexico in 1521, no Aztec emperor's remains have been discovered. Yet historical records say that three Aztec rulers were cremated and their ashes buried at the foot of the Templo Mayor. When the Tlaltecuhlli monolith was found, López Luján noticed that





the god depicted held a rabbit, with ten dots above it, in its clawed right foot. In the Aztec writing system, 10-Rabbit is 1502—the year, according to the codices surviving from the era, that the empire’s most feared ruler, Ahuizotl (pronounced ah-WEE-tzohtl), was laid to rest amid great ceremony.

López Luján is convinced that Ahuizotl’s burial place is somewhere near where the monolith was found. If he is right, then the Aristocanine may be a subterranean guide into the mystique of a people we know as the Aztec, but who called themselves Mexica (pronounced meh-SHEE-ka), and whose legacy forms the core of the Mexican identity. If López Luján finds Ahuizotl’s tomb, it will be the culmination of a

remarkable 32-year inquiry into one of the most mythologized and misunderstood empires in the Western Hemisphere. Alas, little is certain when it comes to the Aztec Empire—a reign simultaneously brutal and complex, brief and literally paved over, yet manifestly prominent in a nation’s consciousness a half millennium later.

“PAST IS PRESENT everywhere in Mexico,” says López Luján. That is especially true of the Aztec Empire, virtually all of which resides just beneath the footsteps of a modern nation.

When word spread in 1978 that the Templo Mayor had been firmly located in the heart of the world’s second most populous city, the resulting spectacle was (Continued on page 130)





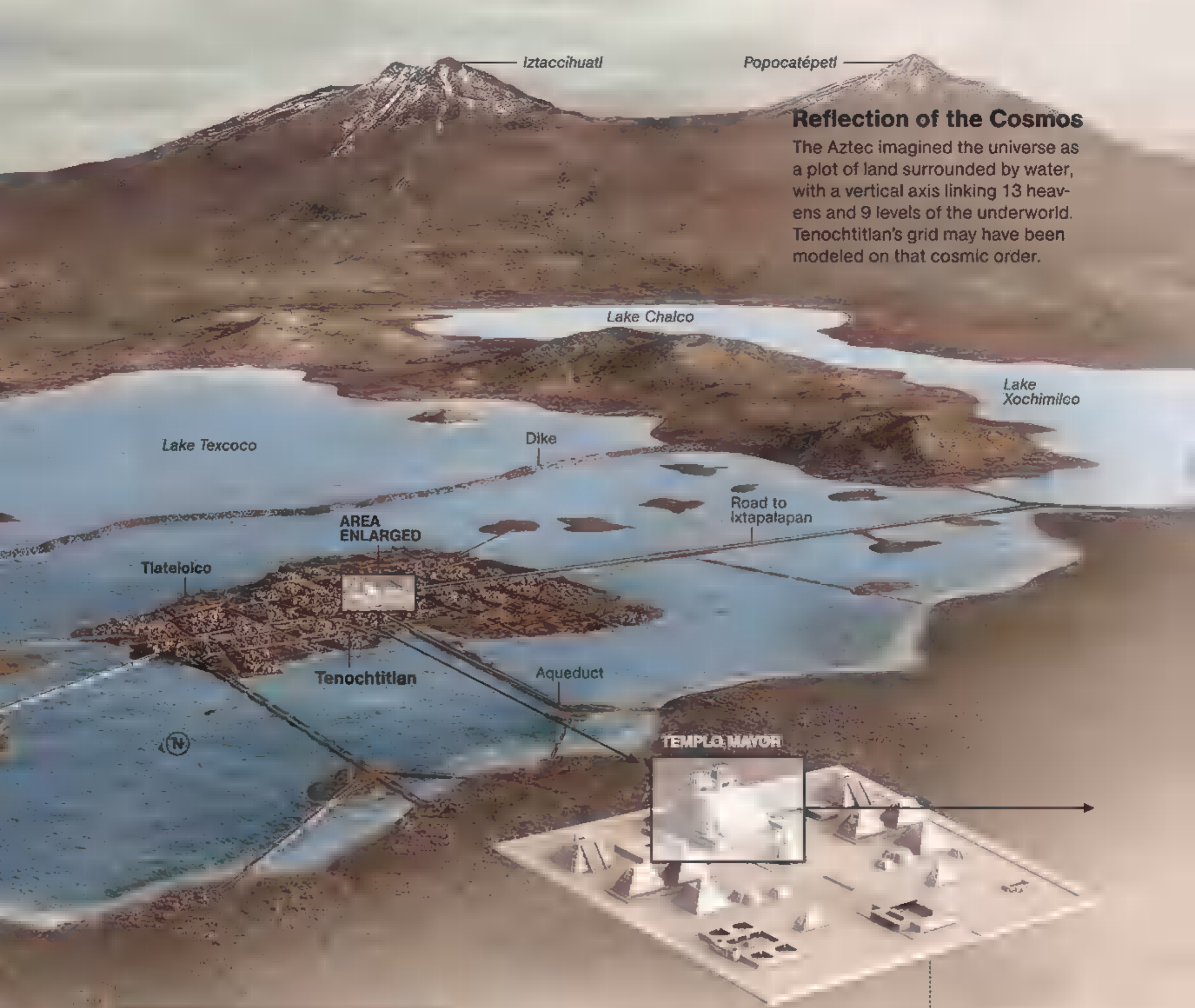




PETER ESSICK

Red, white, and green lights illuminate the ruins of the Templo Mayor for nighttime visitors. Digs have revealed 13 phases of construction from 1375 to 1519, including the pyramid's double staircases.





### Reflection of the Cosmos

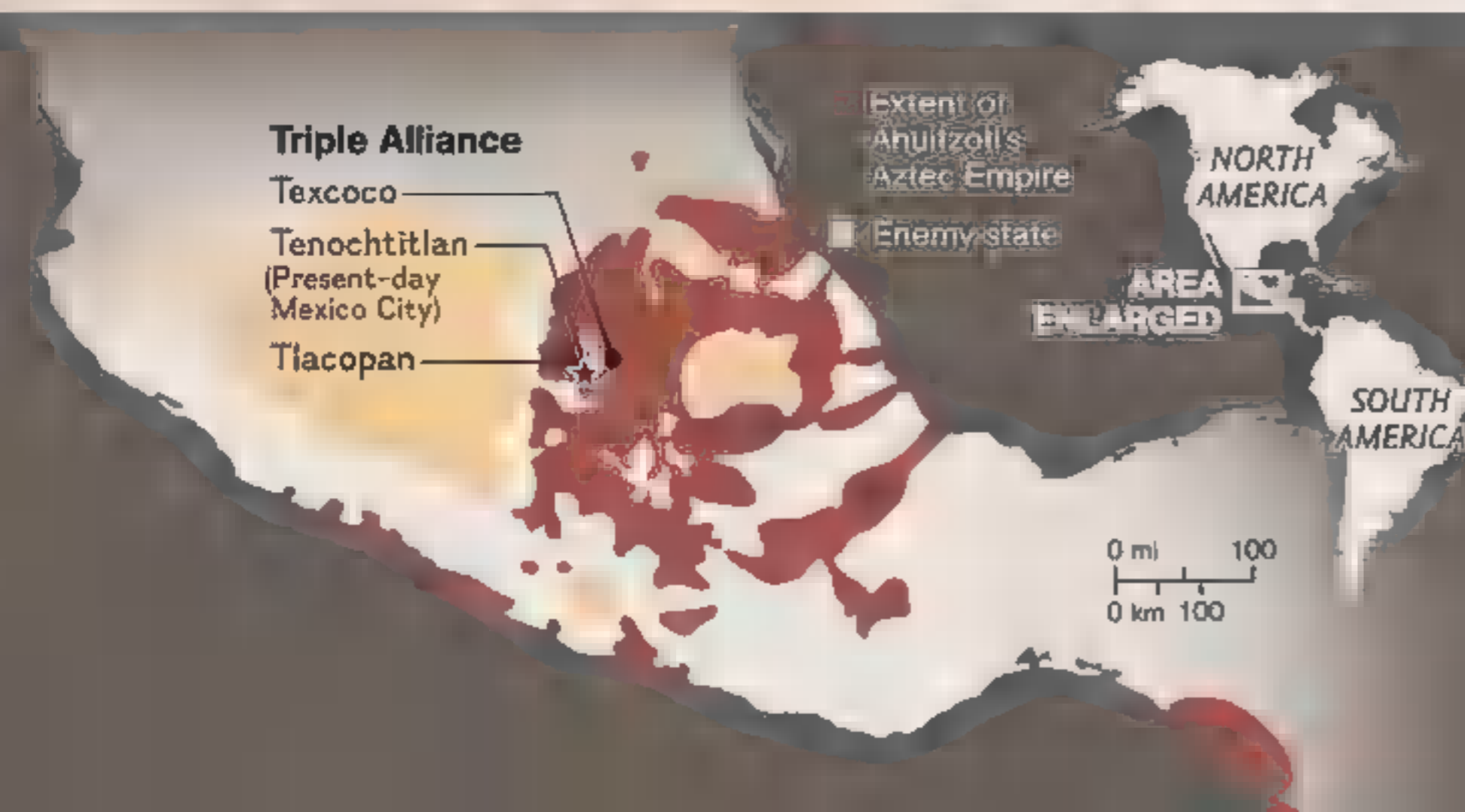
The Aztec imagined the universe as a plot of land surrounded by water, with a vertical axis linking 13 heavens and 9 levels of the underworld. Tenochtitlan's grid may have been modeled on that cosmic order.

## AN AZTEC ISLAND HOME

Aztec rulers built a powerful city-state on an island in Lake Texcoco in the Basin of Mexico. Called Tenochtitlan, it was divided by long avenues, crisscrossed by canals, and connected to the mainland by causeways. At its heart was the Sacred Precinct, the empire's religious center, anchored by the Templo Mayor, which was built to unite sky, earth, and worlds below.

### Sacred Precinct

Religious rituals and civic life in the city of 200,000 converged on a 30-acre plaza. Inside its walls, shrines and racks of enemy skulls stood in the shadow of the Templo Mayor. The plaza also contained smaller pyramids, schools for nobles, and a ball court.



### AZTEC RULERS

Tenochtitlan was founded in 1325. Over the centuries, only 11 men ruled as *tlaotoni*, each with a unique name glyph.



**ACAMAPICHTLI** (Handful of Arrows) the first *tlaotoni*, hereditary ruler of the Aztec city-state.

1325

1375

1337 The market town of Tlatelolco grows north of Tenochtitlan.

1350 Causeways and canals link Tenochtitlan's neighborhoods.



## Templo Mayor

A ceremonial theater, the stepped pyramid was topped by two small temples to honor rain god Tlaloc and Huitzilopochtli, god of sun and war. The pyramid towered 150 feet tall.



### Ritual Sacrifice

Spilling human blood, priests frequently reenacted the death of goddess Coyolxauhqui at the hands of her brother, Huitzilopochtli—a mythic battle between night and day, female and male.

Shrine to Huitzilopochtli

Shrine to Tlaloc

Coyolxauhqui

DETAIL ON NEXT PAGE

### Serpent Sculptures

The base of the pyramid was ornamented with sculptures of snakes, linking it to mythical Coatepec—"hill of serpents," a sacred place.

### Tlaltecuhlli Stone

Found at the foot of the pyramid, the monolith of the earth goddess was carved of pink andesite quarried six miles away and transported by 200 to 500 men with ropes, poles, and perhaps a balsa raft.

SACRED PRECINCT

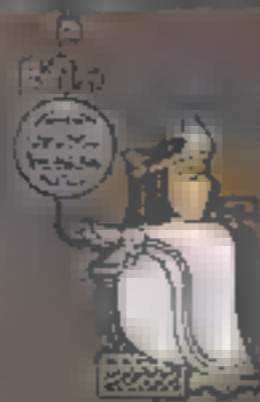
Scene depicted circa 1500.



**HUITZILHUITL**  
(Hummingbird Feather) marries into two rival royal families, cementing alliances.

1395

1396 Huitzilohuitl makes alliances and expands the capital.



**CHIMALPOPOCA**  
(Smoking Shield) survives ten years before he is murdered by a rival.

1417



**ITZCOATL** (Obsidian Snake) joins leaders of Tlacopan and Texcoco, mobilizing a new empire.

1427

1427-1430 An alliance led by Tenochtitlan wins control of central Mexico.

1440



## Earth, Sun, Moon

The largest Aztec monolith yet discovered, the 12-ton earth goddess stone is shown with original red, ocher, blue, white, and black pigments.

**Tlaltecuhlli Stone (Earth Goddess)**  
Found 2006



13.7 x 11.9 ft

**Sun Stone**  
1790



11.7 ft

**Disk of Coyolxauhqui (Moon Goddess)**  
1978



10.6 x 10.1 ft



Almost seven feet below the monolith itself was offering 126 (photo, pages 127-9), the largest cache of artifacts found to date and a fitting tribute to Tlaltecuhlli's fertile, feminine nature.

Offering 121

**DETAIL OF OFFERING 125**

The offerings in the shaft seem to mark a gateway to Earth's center, rather than to a burial spot, as first thought. The search for royal tombs continues.

Offering 127

Offering 128

Offering 129

Offering 131

## OFFERINGS TO THE GODS

Beneath the Tlaltecuhlli monolith and in a deep shaft beside it, archaeologists unearthed many offerings, filled with animals, plants, and objects of gold, jade, copper, turquoise, and flint, brought to the temple from all realms of the empire. The Aztec buried objects to worship the gods—a symbolic ritual archaeologists are still decoding.

**MOCTEZUMA IHUICAMINA** (Angry Lord, He Shoots the Sky) expands the empire using elite warriors, including eagle lords.

**AXAYACATL** (Water Face) attacks the Tarascan people but loses the war and 20,000 men.

**TIZOC** (Chalk Leg), brother to Axayacatl and Ahuizotl, rules weakly and is assassinated.

1440

1469

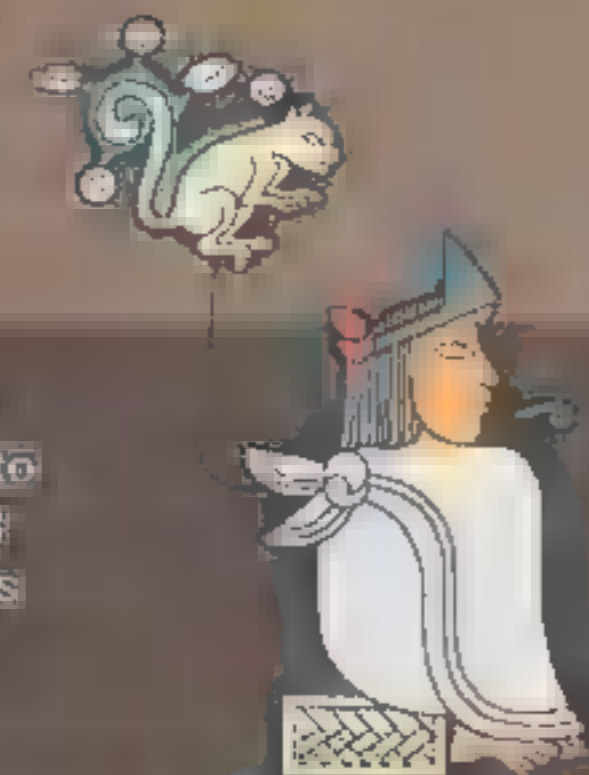
1481

1486

1450-54 Floods, then severe drought and famine plague the Basin of Mexico.

1473 Tenochtitlan subjugates Tlatelolco and rises to dominant city-state.

1487 Templo Mayor rededicated with the blood of thousands.





## Buried Meaning

The spatial arrangement of the complex contents of offering box 125 provides clues to a mystery: Were the artifacts layered to represent a soul's journey to Mictlan, the underworld?

### LEVEL 1

The top layer contained gold bells, a spider monkey pelt, jade and gold ornaments, and golden eagles wearing copper.

The eagles faced west, toward the setting sun. Nocturnal power was signified by eight knives "dressed" as lunar deities.

### LEVEL 2

A layer of 62 marine species from the Atlantic and Pacific included crabs, clams, snails, sea urchins, and corals.

The abundant sea life may represent dangerous waters the dead must cross, trekking through nine levels of obstacles.

### LEVEL 3

In the last layer, an aged female dog or wolf wore a jade necklace, olive shell belt, and turquoise earplugs.

Perhaps the jewelry signified a royal pet assigned to guide and protect its master on the dark odyssey.



Offering orientation

ALEJANDRO TUMAS, SHELLEY SPERRY  
 ART: HERNÁN CAÑELLAS. MAP: MAGGIE SMITH  
 SOURCES: LEONARDO LÓPEZ LUJÁN, TEMPLO  
 MAYOR PROJECT, INAH; FRANCES B. BERDAN,  
 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN  
 BERNARDINO; JULIANA NOVIC AND MICHAEL B.  
 SMITH, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY; EMILY  
 UMBERGER, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

### AHUITZOTL

(Water Beast) conquers new lands and is called *huey tlatoani*, or great speaker



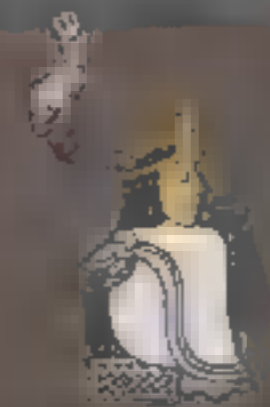
### MOCTEZUMA

XOCOYOTZIN (Angry Lord, the Younger) aggressively moves to consolidate his empire, largest in Mesoamerica's history



### CUITLAHUAC

(Excrement) rules only 80 days before succumbing to smallpox



### QUAUHTEMOC

(Descending Eagle)—the last emperor—is captured, tortured, and hanged by Cortés

1502

1520

1500 Heavy rains in poorly built aqueduct flood Tenochtitlan

1499-1506 Drought and famine plague the Basin of Mexico

1519 Cortés enlists native city-states to destroy the empire

1521 Smallpox begins to ravage the basin's million inhabitants

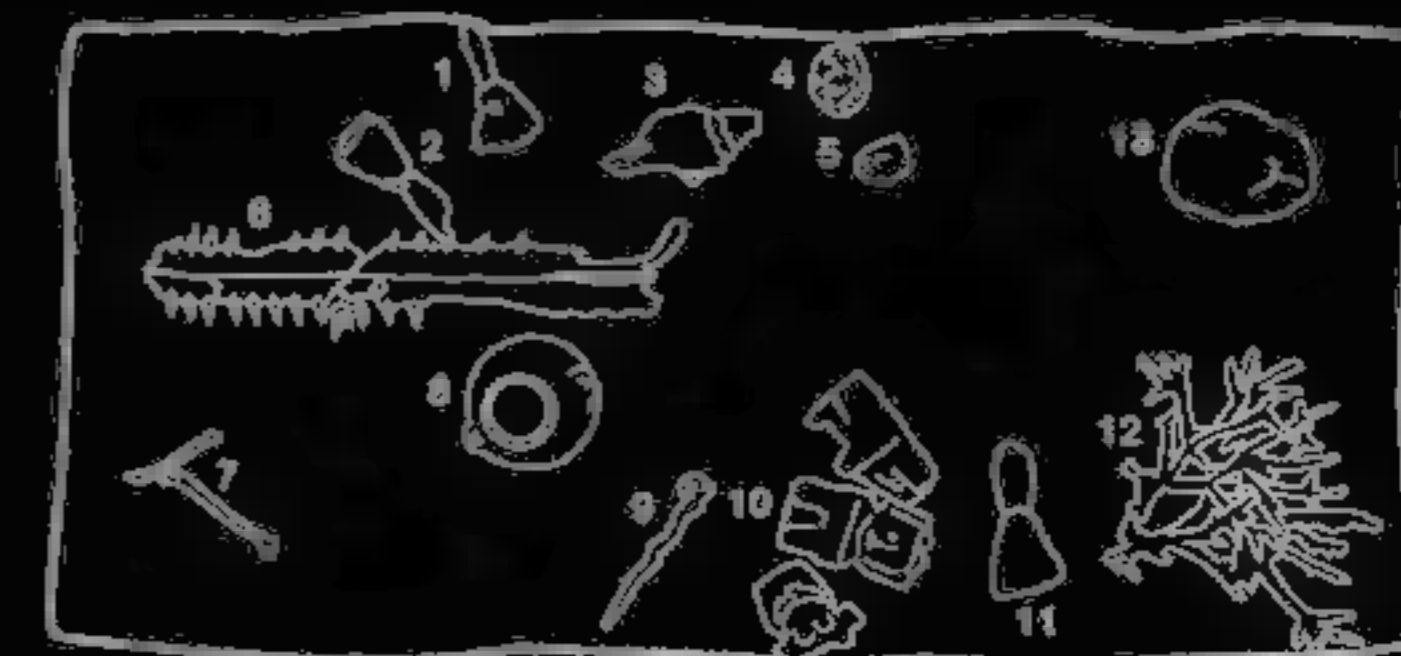








Inside the shaft beside the monolith, archaeologists found offering box 125, depicting what project leader López Luján calls a "miniature image of the universe." Among the treasures offered to the gods were a gold ornament (left, top), a greenstone necklace (left, bottom), and flint and obsidian knives (above). Directly under Tlaltecuhтли, the largest offering yet unearthed (box 126, following pages, and drawing below) held a tiny pine mask (far left, and 5 below), and 8,500 animal bones (7). Other objects in the box: sacrificial knives (8, 11), shells and corals (4, 12, 13), a sawfish bill (6), a jar of grain (8), a scepter (9), and fire god sculptures (10).













(Continued from page 117) more like a Broadway opening than an archaeological triumph. Jimmy Carter, François Mitterrand, Gabriel García Márquez, Jacques Cousteau, and Jane Fonda were among the dozens of celebrities who were treated to a tour of the dig site, some by Mexico's President José López Portillo, whose controversial decision to raze 13 buildings had made the excavation possible. And now it is happening again, with news circulating that one or more rulers may be entombed underneath the Zócalo's periphery. Today López Luján spends an inordinate amount of time chaperoning VIPs through the cramped and shrouded excavation site on the western edge of the pyramid. The Mexican press responds in droves to the latest archaeological revelations. Ordinary folks rap on the secure entrance to ask for a look; López Luján often obliges. The round-faced, good-humored, 46-year-old scholar understands the psychic pull. "Right now Mexicans realize they are living in a tragic present," he says. "But the past gives the people a way of saying they're somebody."

Unlike the Maya, Mesoamerica's other pre-Columbian powerhouse, the Aztec are exclusively identified with Mexico, and today it spares no opportunity to mythologize them. In the center of the Mexican flag is the Aztec eagle, which is also incorporated into the logos of the nation's two main airlines. There is Banco Azteca and TV Azteca, and the national soccer team wears uniforms featuring the iconic eagle and plays its home games in Estadio Azteca. And of course Mexico City itself—the nerve center of the nation—is an implicit homage to the city-state of Tenochtitlan and to Aztec indomitability.

But to see the Aztec in strictly iconic terms is to misunderstand them. To begin with, the mighty Aztec sustained their empire—the triple alliance of Tenochtitlan, Texcoco, and Tlacopan—for less than a century before it was eviscerated by

European conquerors. For all the fear and loathing the rulers instilled in conquered regions, their dominion was ephemeral. They did not erect temples and disseminate cultural traditions across the countryside as the ancient Romans or Inca did. Instead, the Aztec maintained what some scholars call "a cheap empire," one in which the conquered were permitted to continue governing themselves so long as they ponied up tributary objects—a protection scheme buttressed by periodic shows of force. The Aztec chose to express their ingenuity largely in the epicenter of Tenochtitlan. Yet the great city was in many ways a repository of customs, images, and spiritual practices borrowed from previous civilizations. As López Luján's father, the Mesoamerican scholar Alfredo López Austin, puts it, "The most common misconception is that the Aztec were a completely original culture. They weren't."

But the harsh caricature of the Aztec as bloodthirsty is just as misguided. So grossly did the conquering Spaniards overstate the Mexica bloodlust—claiming, for example, that 80,400 humans were put to death at a single temple dedication, a feat that would have depopulated much of central Mexico—that some groups today feel justified in dismissing sacrifice as a European fiction. That's going too far. Chemical examinations during the past 15 years of porous surfaces throughout Mexico City reveal "blood traces everywhere," says López Luján. "You have the sacrificial stones, the sacrificial knives, the bodies of 127 victims—you can't deny the human sacrifice."

But, he is quick to add, you'll find human sacrifice everywhere in the world at that time. The Maya and numerous other cultures predated the Aztec's embrace of the practice. "It isn't the violence of a people but rather of an age—a warlike atmosphere when the religions of the time demanded that humans be sacrificed to replenish the gods," observes López Austin. And that spiritual imperative was received by the Aztec people with considerable anguish, according to analyses of codices by Harvard historian of religions David Carrasco. "They were upset

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*Robert Draper is a contributing writer for National Geographic. Kenneth Garrett frequently photographs archaeology stories for the magazine. Photographer Jesús López lives in Mexico City.*



about sacrifice,” he says. “I think there are a lot of signs that they were bothered by it.”

The codices reveal that this was a people with a sophisticated awareness of the limitations of an empire that relied on human sacrifice. Even as they achieved their greatest might under Ahuitzotl, the predicate for their doom was being laid. A people who believed themselves at the center of a highly precarious universe were also inflicted with what Carrasco terms a “cosmic insecurity.”

THE EMPIRE BEGAN from scratch. The first Aztec, or Mexica, migrated from the north—from Aztlan, so it was said, though this ancestral homeland has never been located and perhaps existed only in legend. They spoke the Nahuatl tongue of the mighty Toltec, whose dominance across central Mexico had ended in the 12th century. But language was the Mexica’s only connection to greatness. Chased off from one Basin of Mexico settlement after another, they at last happened upon an island in Lake Texcoco that no one else wanted and in 1325 proclaimed it Tenochtitlan. Little more than a swamp, Tenochtitlan lacked drinkable water and stones and wood for building. But its scruffy new inhabitants, though “almost totally uncultured,” as renowned scholar Miguel León-Portilla puts it, compensated with what he terms “an indomitable will.”

These settlers proceeded to dig through the ruins of the once great city-states of Teotihuacan and Tula. What they saw, they appropriated. By 1430 Tenochtitlan had become greater than either city, a marvel of landfill and aqueducts, divided by canals and causeways into four quadrants all in orbit around the centerpiece of a double-staircased pyramid with twin temples at its summit. None of their flourishes was particularly original, and that was the point. The Mexica sought to establish ancestral connections with empires past—particularly through the machinations of Tlacaelel, the royal consigliere who could boast that “none of the past kings has acted without my opinion or counsel.” During the first half of the 15th century, Tlacaelel introduced a new version of Mexica history, asserting that

his people were offspring of the great Toltec and elevating Huitzilopochtli—their patron god of the sun and of war—to the pantheon of exalted Toltec deities. The royal counselor went one step further. As Miguel León-Portilla writes, Tlacaelel crafted their imperial destiny as “the conquest of all other nations... to capture victims for sacrifice, because the source of all life, the sun, would die unless it were fed with human blood.”

Thus did the reviled newcomers from the north ascend to nobility. They subjugated town after town in the Basin of Mexico. Under Moctezuma I, in the late 1440s, the Mexica and their allies marched over 200 miles to extend their empire southward into the present-day states of

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## **BELIEVING THEY LIVED IN A HIGHLY PRECARIOUS UNIVERSE INFLICTED THE AZTEC WITH A COSMIC INSECURITY.**

Morelos and Guerrero. By the 1450s they had pushed into the northern Gulf coast. And by 1465 the Chalco Confederacy, the lone holdout in the Basin of Mexico, was vanquished.

It would fall to the eighth Aztec ruler, Ahuitzotl, to stretch the empire to its breaking point.

HE DOES NOT HAVE A FACE. The man whose remains Leonardo López Luján hopes to find near the Templo Mayor is not represented in any artwork. “The only images we have of an Aztec ruler are of Moctezuma II, and these were made based on descriptions from the Spaniards after his death,” López Luján says, referring to the last emperor who ruled over Mexico on the eve of the Spanish conquest. “About Moctezuma II, we have many details of his life. Of Ahuitzotl, we have very few.”

Here’s what we do know: The high-ranking military officer assumed the throne in 1486 after his brother Tizoc lost control of the empire and





Ahuitzotl's funerary bundle, turquoise diadem and mask, was carried to his pyre by nobles.



perished—perhaps by poison, perhaps by his younger brother’s hand. His very name connoted violence; in Nahuatl parlance, the *ahuitzotl* was a vicious otter-like being that could throttle humans with its muscular tail. Ahuitzotl’s 45 conquests, the hallmark of his 16-year reign, were all colorfully memorialized in a Spanish viceroy’s manuscript known as the Codex Mendoza. His armies conquered swaths along the Pacific coast, down into present-day Guatemala—and thus “expanded the empire’s territorial reach to unprecedented limits,” according to Carrasco. Some of these battles were purely exhibits of supremacy or to punish recalcitrant local leaders. The majority were to fulfill two bedrock lusts: tributary goods for Tenochtitlan and victims for the gods.

The first rule of Aztec dominion was well in place by the time Ahuitzotl acquired power: Take the conquered region’s best stuff. “The merchants and traders played the roles of spies,” explains Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, the archaeologist who oversaw the massive excavations at the Templo Mayor that began in 1978. Once they reported back about the resources a town possessed, the imperial forces would prepare their attack. “The military expansion was an economic expansion,” says Matos Moctezuma. “The Aztec didn’t impose their religion. They just wanted the products.”

Not even gold held as much significance among the Mesoamerican peoples as jade, which represented fertility—and which in Central America could be found only in the mines of Guatemala. Unsurprisingly then, Ahuitzotl established trade routes into those lands—acquiring not only the metamorphic green stones but also, says López Luján, “quetzal feathers, gold, jaguar skins, and cacao, which was their money that grew on trees.” With this abundance of riches, Tenochtitlan became a mercantile powerhouse as well as a cultural one—“the richest art center at that time, as Paris and New York would be later,” says López Luján.

The Aztec bling became part of the ornately ritualized spirituality of Tenochtitlan. The Templo Mayor was not simply a burial pyramid like

those erected by the ancient Egyptians but rather the symbol of the sacred mountain of Coatepec. The mountain was the site of a cosmological soap opera: The newly born sun god Huitzilopochtli slew his warrior sister, the moon goddess Coyolxauhqui, and flung her to the bottom of the mountain. With regular doses of such sacrificed warriors, the Mexica believed, the gods would be sated and the life cycle would go on. Without such sacrifices, the gods would perish and the world would end. “The sacred mountain is as important as the cross in Christianity,” says Carrasco. For the Mexica, as for most Mesoamerican cultures, “there was this repetitive destruction and creation.”

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### **MOST OF THE BATTLES WERE FOUGHT TO FULFILL TWO BEDROCK LUSTS: TRIBUTARY GOODS AND VICTIMS FOR THE GODS.**

Paying homage to the sacred mountain meant marching colorfully garbed captive soldiers up the stairs of the pyramid, forcing them to perform ceremonial dances, and then cutting out their hearts and rolling their corpses down the steps. Rounding up the requisite prisoners to be sacrificed later was an ongoing campaign. Ritual battles were staged on specific days, on neutral land, with the explicit purpose of capturing prisoners, not territory. As the Aztec scholar Ross Hassig notes, each war “was formally initiated by burning ■ large pyre of paper and incense between the two armies.” The Mexica did not speak of “holy wars,” because for them there was no other kind. Combat and religion were inseparable.

IN HIS VERY FIRST CAMPAIGN, Ahuitzotl led his army through several cities to the northeast to gather victims for his coronation rites in Tenochtitlan. Annoyed that several enemy lords failed to attend his crowning, the new ruler



undertook a second series of invasions in 1487, pillaging the towns of the Huastec region and seizing an immense number of captives. Ahuizotl's adversaries got the message. This time their leaders were well represented at the dedication of the Templo Mayor, and they watched in horrified amazement as the sacrificial victims they had surrendered were slaughtered in vast numbers by ritually ornamented priests.

Having instilled fear, Ahuizotl would then display a lighter hand, plying visiting warlords with flowers and gifts and tobacco at his palace. The emperor enjoyed entertaining—"in his house the music never ceased, day or night," according to one text from the era—but his yen for lavish ceremonies, coupled with his many wives and children, took its toll on Tenochtitlan's budget. The list of tribute goods supplied by the conquered provinces and enumerated by the 16th-century friar and chronicler Diego Durán reads like ad copy for Tiffany & Co.: "gold, jewels, ornaments, fine feathers, precious stones...countless articles of clothing and many adornments." The banquets must have been sumptuous, with "an amazing quantity of cacao, chiles, pumpkin seeds, all kinds of fruit, fowls and game." But it was never enough. More conquests would be ordered, along with measures to demonstrate the empire's power—as when Ahuizotl avenged the killings of several merchants in 1497 by ordering warriors into the offending villages to slay 2,000 for every dead merchant.

More than any ruler before him, Ahuizotl expanded the empire's reach southward, sealed off trade from the powerful Tarascans to the west, and tightened the reins on all the subjugated territories. "He was more forceful, more brutal," says archaeologist Raúl Arana. "When people didn't want to pay tribute, he sent in the military. With Ahuizotl, the Aztec went to the maximum expression of everything. And perhaps it was too much. All empires have a limit."

The Mexica people lost their great empire builder at the pinnacle of their dominance. In 1502—10-Rabbit—Ahuizotl perished, supposedly from a blow to the head while escaping his palace during a flood. The flood was caused by

a hastily built aqueduct project Ahuizotl had initiated to harness the springs flowing out of neighboring Coyoacan. The town's ruler had warned Ahuizotl about the spring's highly irregular flows. The emperor had responded by putting the ruler to death. At Ahuizotl's funeral, 200 of his slaves were selected as his companions for the hereafter. Outfitted in fine garments and carrying provisions for the journey, the slaves were led to the Templo Mayor, where their hearts were torn out and their bodies cast onto a funeral pyre. Their remains, and those of their master, were said to be buried in front of the Templo Mayor.

THAT VERY SPOT is where the Tlaltecuhli monolith and the Aristo-Canine were discovered. López Luján's team has excavated other offerings in the immediate vicinity. One was found underneath a Tuscan-style mansion built for one of Cortés's soldiers. Another was discovered several feet under the large stone slab. In both cases López Luján knew where to look by tracing a complicated series of east-west axes, or "imaginary lines," on a map of the site. "There's always this repetitive symmetry," says López Luján. "It was like an obsession with them."

The archaeological team's work is slow and unglamorous. Some of this is due to the challenges of any urban excavation: obtaining permits and circumnavigating sewer and subway lines; avoiding underground telephone, fiber optic, and electric cables; and maintaining security for an archaeological area that lies within one of the world's most alluring pedestrian zones. But as much as anything else, López Luján's crew labors painstakingly because the exactitude of the Aztec requires no less. Standing over a pit where, in May 2007, his team unearthed an offering box no bigger than a footlocker, he says, "It took 15 months for us to go through that entire offering. In that small space, it had ten layers and over 5,000 objects. The concentration, the richness, is incredible.

"It looks random, but it's not," López Luján continues. "Everything has a cosmic significance. The challenge for us is to discover the



logic and the spatial distribution patterns. When Leopoldo Batres worked here [during the turn of the previous century], he was interested in the objects themselves. They were archaeological trophies to him. What we've discovered in the 32 years we've been working here is that the objects aren't so important by themselves but by their connection in space."

Every finding is a huge boon for Mexico since so many fine artifacts were seized by the conquistadores and brought back to Spain, where they have been dispersed throughout Europe. Beyond their aesthetic value, the new discoveries highlight the Aztec's attention to detail—a preoccupation owing to the high stakes involved. For the Aztec, the appeasement of the gods—and thus the world's survival—depended on an ever growing, ever demanding empire that ultimately could not be sustained. As Carrasco says, "The irony of empire is that you push to the periphery and you push too far, until *you* become the periphery. You're so far from home that you can't support your warriors with food and transport and you can't protect your merchants. The empire becomes too expensive. And the Aztec couldn't manage it."

TEN YEARS BEFORE THE SPANIARDS arrived, Ahuizotl's successor, Moctezuma II, was apparently plagued by visions and portents. Despite having continued his predecessor's expansionist ways, despite his great power and his gold and turquoise diadem and his 19 children and his zoo crammed with exotic animals and "dwarfs and albinos and hunchbacks"—despite all of this, the ninth Aztec ruler was beset by his own cosmic insecurity. In 1509, according to one codex, "a bad omen appeared in the sky. It was like a flaming ear of corn... it seemed to bleed fire, drop by drop, like a wound in the sky."

Moctezuma's worries were justified. "There were more than 50,000 indigenous warriors revolting, wanting to keep their goods and wanting the Aztec attacks to stop in their community," says Carrasco. Absent this appetite for an uprising, the 500 Spaniards who docked at Veracruz in the spring of 1519, even with their

guns and cannon and horses, would have been no match for the Aztec armies.

Instead, Cortés's contingent arrived in Tenochtitlan on the eighth of November escorted by thousands of Tlaxcalan and allied warriors. As awed as the Spaniards were by the spectacle of this gleaming city on a lake—"some of the soldiers even asked whether the things that we saw were not a dream," one eyewitness recalled—they were not daunted by their host's prowess. Rather, it was Moctezuma who seemed unsure of himself. According to Mesoamerican legend, the great bearded deity Quetzalcoatl—banished after committing incest with his sister—would one day return by water to restore his lordship.

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### **THE APPEASEMENT OF THE GODS DEPENDED ON AN EVER GROWING EMPIRE THAT COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED.**

This notion was not lost on Moctezuma, who presented Cortés with "the treasure of Quetzalcoatl," a head-to-toe costuming topped off with "a serpent mask inlaid with turquoise."

But was Moctezuma really interpreting the Spaniard as the second coming of the feathered-serpent god, as has long been believed? Or was he cunningly outfitting Cortés in the godly garment of the soon-to-be sacrificed? The gesture was a final Aztec ambiguity. Thereafter, the facts are unassailable. The streets of Tenochtitlan ran red, and in 1521 an empire was buried.

"We're persuaded that sooner or later we'll find Ahuizotl's tomb," says López Luján. "We're digging deeper and deeper." But no matter how deep the archaeologist digs, he will never unearth the core of the Aztec mystique. It will continue to occupy modern Mexico's psyche—there to be felt if not seen, at once primitive and majestic, summoning from ordinary mortals the power to turn swamps into kingdoms. □



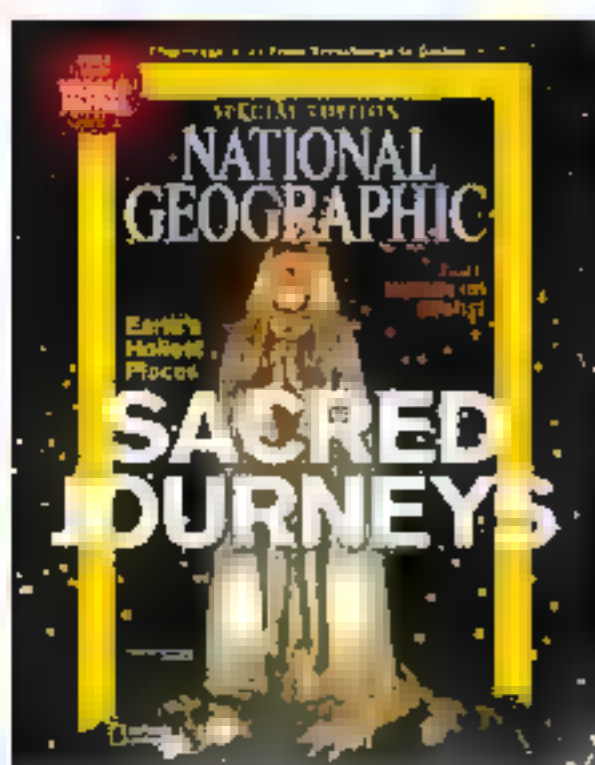


Red crabs migrate from forest to sea on Australia's Christmas Island.

**NAT GEO CHANNEL On the Move** This month the National Geographic Channel presents *Great Migrations*, a seven-part, global television event with unprecedented footage of millions of animals making their instinctive treks in the name of survival. Three years in the making, this program takes viewers across the globe, intimately capturing the often harrowing migrations of wildebeests, walruses, red crabs (above), and more. Then it takes us behind the scenes to see the advanced technology required to capture this spectacular, high-definition show of wildlife. Catch the first episode on November 7 at 8 p.m.

**SPECIAL ISSUE Sacred Journeys** What is it about a place that compels us to travel there for spiritual sustenance? From Mecca to Vatican City, destinations the world over draw throngs of people seeking religious fulfillment. Yet for many others a hike to Mount Fuji or a walk in the woods also offers

a powerful experience—and a holiness of its own. Explore some of Earth's most fascinating and important spiritual sites in *Sacred Journeys*, featuring a map of major pilgrimages and places and an essay by *National Geographic's* senior editor Don Belt. This new *National Geographic* special issue is available in bookstores November 2 or at [ngm.com/sacred-journeys](http://ngm.com/sacred-journeys) (\$10.99).



**Society Updates**

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Brilliantly illustrated with more than 250 color photographs, *Great Migrations* is the essential companion to the television series of the same name. This book will captivate animal lovers and environmentalists alike with its in-depth coverage of the never-before-seen wildlife behavior and stories showcased in the groundbreaking documentary. Other highlights include archival images and unforgettable film stills. Look for *Great Migrations* in bookstores in mid-October (\$35).

**GeoPuzzle Answers**

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Nel Cepeda

Pat Minnick included National Geographic in her financial plans.

## Give An Inspiring Gift

In 2007 Pat Minnick, a professional artist, decided to establish a charitable gift annuity to support National Geographic. She now receives a guaranteed life income and is a direct part of the Society's efforts to inspire people to care about the planet.

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**Modern Mermaids** A Japanese ama goes overboard in search of shellfish in the 1930s. For centuries these female free divers worked the country's coasts without much clothing, but that changed: "Except for a few older women, the ama of Hekura no longer dive semi-naked," wrote Luis Marden after visiting one group of divers. His July 1971 *Geographic* story, "Ama, Sea Nymphs of Japan," goes on to say, "The girls wore black leotards. Most others wore all-enveloping suits of black neoprene, the diver's wetsuit."

There aren't many ama left in Japan. Most who remain are middle-aged or older; divers sometimes work into their 80s. Today few young women care to take the plunge. —Margaret G. Zackowitz

➤ **Flashback Archive** Find all the photos at [ngm.com](http://ngm.com).

PHOTO: EUROPEAN PICTURE SERVICE/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK

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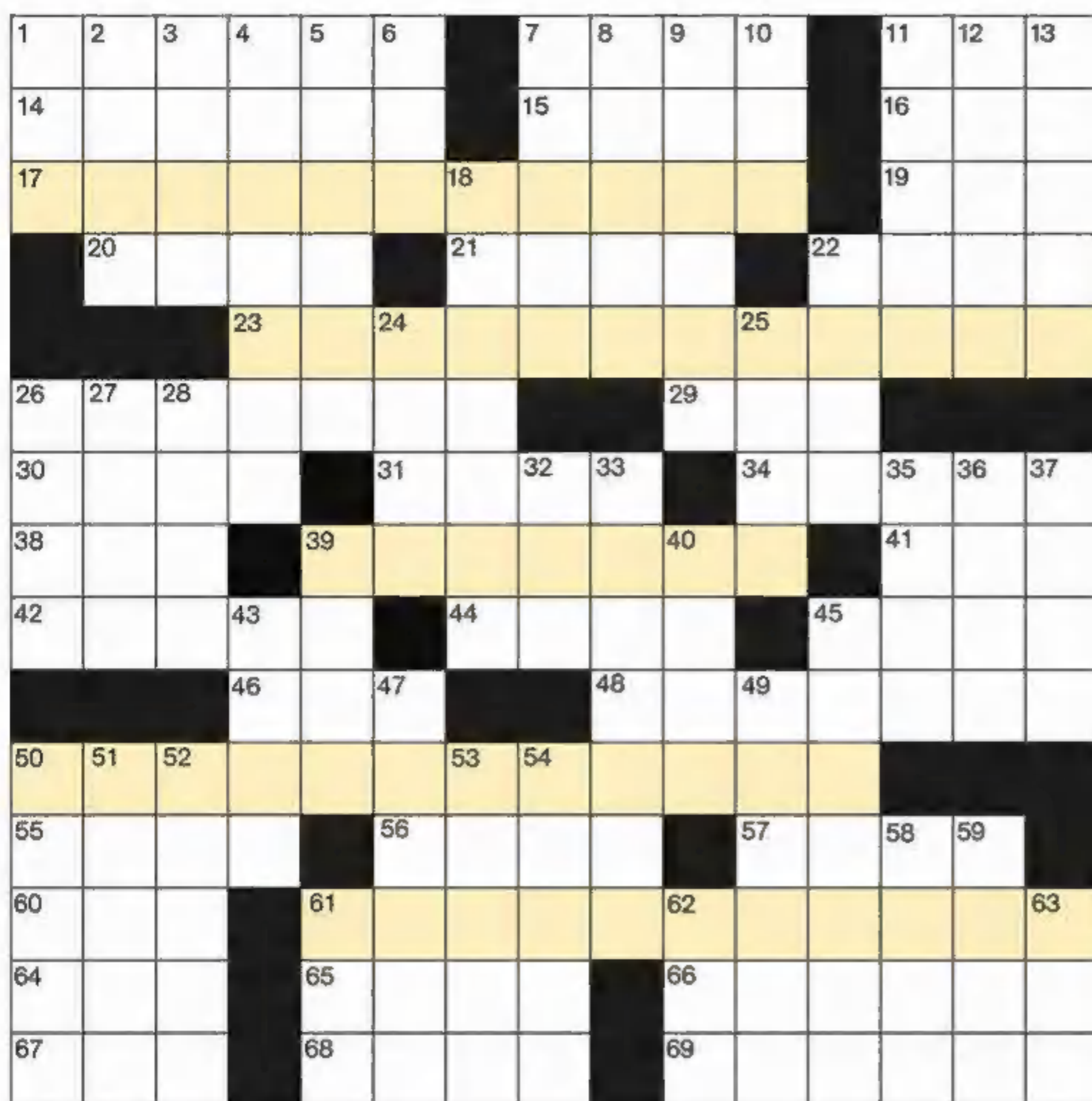
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# GEOPUZZLE



## Odd-ysseys

Puzzle by Cathy Allis

Why did the pronghorn (left) cross the road? To get to the next stage in their migration. The amazing journeys of all sorts of animals are grist for the tinted answers. To bone up on migratory facts, see the article on page 28.

### ACROSS

- 1 Marine animal that's no square
- 7 Little lumps
- 11 Mount Rushmore prez
- 14 Rescuer
- 15 Oaxacan "other"
- 16 Roman goddess of peace
- 17 Choice an arctic tern might face when offered a mid-migration herring
- 19 Terre Haute sch.
- 20 Make out, in Liverpool
- 21 Hydrodynamic duo
- 22 Inn need
- 23 With 50 Across, prairie rattlers' migration scheme?
- 26 Language of Manila
- 29 Schmooze
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- 31 Smooth-talking
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- 38 Not talking
- 39 Chinook salmon's migration to its birthplace for egg laying?
- 41 Long March leader
- 42 Capellini or cannelloni
- 44 Brazil nut, botanically
- 45 Chief
- 46 Enemy in this year's Gulf "war"?
- 48 Feminine
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- 55 Cape of Chile
- 56 Spiritual adviser
- 57 Its hips may be in tea
- 60 It's behind hubris
- 61 Overwhelm like monarch butterflies during their migration?
- 64 Abacus calculation
- 65 Suit to \_\_\_
- 66 Grammy winner Twain
- 67 Salmon's first migration destination
- 68 Place for a modesty panel
- 69 Swans vis-à-vis swallows
- 7 Former fast flier to JFK
- 2 Goals on greens
- 3 Tandoor, e.g.
- 4 Russian form of the saint aka Santa
- 5 Ten to the hundredth power
- 6 Mix metaphors, say
- 7 Org. that "tracks" Santa
- 8 Prenatal "nurseries"
- 9 Loud and overbearing
- 10 He's hardly a teetotaler
- 11 Like some drones
- 12 Rudimentary
- 13 Radiate, as confidence
- 18 Does some back-and-forth switching
- 22 Shark type
- 24 Bagged launch
- 25 Infield protector
- 26 One working in a sub way
- 27 Blue hue
- 28 Checkout-aisle assortment
- 32 Suffix akin to "-ian"
- 33 Where suds are made and served
- 35 Mideast sultanate
- 36 It gets reefed
- 37 Award for *Bye Bye Birdie*
- 39 Skinniness exemplar
- 40 Superstar
- 43 \_\_\_ crier
- 45 Thoroughbred grandfather of Seabiscuit
- 47 Surgically tie
- 49 Actress Mason in *The Goodbye Girl*
- 50 Mating game
- 51 Scamp
- 52 Bakery lure
- 53 Subject of SALT I and II
- 54 Like nu
- 58 Did a round
- 59 Sandusky's lake
- 61 Wee bit
- 62 Fashion designer's monogram
- 63 Deface

### DOWN



Answers in *Inside Geographic*



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